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THE STORY OF KARS.

THE Blue-book literature of our age has received another accession. The Kars papers have been gathered into a volume, a companion to the Sebastopol one. An opportunity offers for a valet of spirit to write another "Whom shall we Hang?" There are excellent materials for the peculiar humour of his school—failure, robbery, treason, starvation, and death. We propose to avail ourselves of the materials with a different object. It is of high interest to know the story of Kars. True, the place is lost and the affair ended, and the public are slow to interest themselves in a distant scene which has not met with a "gra-

phic" painter. But it is worth considering that all the conditions which produce a "loss of Kars" are in full bloom throughout our general administration, and will continue to produce similar events everywhere; so that it is a representative matter which we have before us.

All eyes were on the Crimea, and few cared for Asiatic prospects, when the war had well begun. The Russians were wide awake, of course. They have long been active in Asia; and they took care to spare a force for their purposes there, while still straining every nerve to save Sebastopol. It became a question what the Turks could do for their protection in those regions. It was near the winter of 1854,

the Russians had taken Bayazid, Colonel Williams arrived at Constantinople, having been appointed "Commissioner" at Turkish headquarters. The Turks wanted most things, but they wanted a man worth something as a soldier, most of all. Williams was strongly recommended, and (by a wonderful bit of luck) Williams was the man pitched on by our Government. There was a feeling against him in one high Turkish quarter, and we fear in another quarter, where such a thing ought to excite more surprise. The Grand Vizier was against the appointment; the English Ambassador was against the man.

Sir Stratford Canning, as the Ambassador was called—before by a



A TURKISH HAREM

common bit of ridiculous nonsense he chose the feudal "de Redcliffe" for the title to which long services raised him—stood high in general estimation previous to the war. He was civil to such cockney tourists as were likely to write about him, and whose birth and connections were such as to make them wonder how they ever got into the saloons of an ambassador. The war has done for him what it has done for many—showed the world that he was unfit for great matters, however fit for ordinary ones. It brought him into delicate positions, and into public observation more keen than before. He now stands before us, on good evidence, an arrogant, pig-headed, offensive, incompetent man, pompous as a beetle and jealous as a woman, without a touch of greatness or generosity about him. It is plain that, infamously as the Turks were to blame, this man was as much to blame likewise; and that between them, with other assistance occasionally, Williams had to fall against an enemy which had been well beaten before the walls under his command, and which succeeded only because he was shamefully neglected. This is the pith of the story of Kars: the root of the matter. It is somewhat consoling to think that the Russians are thoroughly thrashed whenever an Englishman gets even a decent chance; but against long-continued blunders nothing can succeed. We have lost more honour and more blood at our own hands since the war began, than at those of the Russians. We knew this long since; Kars only makes it clearer.

Williams's earliest discovery was, that the army wanted everything, and that Selim Pacha was a coward. He did not get supplies; but he was still saddled with Selim Pacha. Frauds of all kinds were practised under his nose, rations demanded for imaginary men, while scoundrels and blockheads abounded in leading positions. To remedy this state of things, he naturally kept writing to De Redcliffe. At this time there was a regular mail; but by the 6th of December, 1854, he had to complain of—how many?—fifty-four unanswered despatches! This neglect is wholly unjustifiable. We are told De Redcliffe had been working for him all the same; that, like the old woman's owl, he said little, but thought all the more. It is, however, odd that a man famous for bullying the Sultan on ordinary occasions, should have failed to bully him out of food for his troops when defending one of his strongholds. In fact, Clarendon had to snub him for his silence towards an English officer "surrounded by traitors and robbers." The Ambassador wrote a grumbling complaint about Williams, from which we shall extract a passage, in order to show that Williams was a man of resolution and vigour:—

"It appears that the Commissioner asserts in practice a right of being obeyed without hesitation, whether the objects of his suggestions be the punishment or removal of an officer accused by him, the correction of an abuse, the introduction of an improvement, or the direction of a military operation."

In short, the Commissioner did his best to put things to rights in a manner honourable to England, and this offended his countryman at Constantinople; who wrote home mean and jealous complaints, when he ought to have been providing for a threatened garrison.

Time rolled on. The spring of last year found General Williams still "without a single reform" but what he had managed to work himself, in spite of the Turkish officers. The Turkish War Ministers were jealous of him, and, of course, must have rejoiced to see (as they soon would) that De Redcliffe was on their side in his heart.

On the 16th of June, 1855, the Russians made their first attack on Kars. It was soon evident to everybody that reinforcements ought to be sent. Now came suggestions. The Turkish Ministers proposed an expedition into Georgia, made up from the forces at Batoum, of the troops of Vivian, and the horse of Beaton, sources altogether which would amount to 36,000. A drop of cold water falls from De Redcliffe, who calls attention to the importance of not exposing the Turkish Contingent or Beaton's Horse "prematurely." General Vivian inquires how about "Transport inland?" No reply. Clarendon then steps in (13th of July), and condemns the scheme; but suggests instead, that the army at Kars, if unable to hold that place, should fall back on Erzeroum, and the whole Turkish force be concentrated there.

Panmure (14th of July) says, significantly:—

"It is too late to regret the policy which has left Brigadier-General Williams and his army exposed to such straits; but it would only be opening the way to fresh failure to follow out such schemes as have been proposed for the purpose of relieving him."

Omar Pacha, about this time, makes his appearance on the scene. In June, he proposed that he should make a diversion with 25,000 men, in favour of the hapless city. He wanted to do this from Redoubt-Kaleh, to cut off the Russian communications, and force them to raise the siege. A Council of War decided against this plan. But the Turks liked it; and Lord Clarendon was willing. Napoleon was appealed to, and he also was willing,—"provided the Allied commanders had no objection." The fear on their part was, of weakening the force before Sebastopol. Omar Pacha wanted to exchange those at Eupatoria for them, to meet this objection, but General Simpson declined.

Sebastopol fell; and news came of the brilliant repulse of the Russians from Kats, on the 29th of September. Williams was imploring the assistance which he had so nobly deserved, and so terribly wanted. Read the following paragraph from him (12th of Oct.), and see the position to which, in spite of months of time, the gallant man had been reduced. He is writing to De Redcliffe, who, for aught we know, chuckled at his misery:—

"Notwithstanding the severe defeat experienced by the enemy, he still blockades us closely; and the erection of huts in his camp this morning, shows that he intends to continue this course. He knows that all our cavalry horses, and the great majority of the artillery horses, are dead of starvation; and that we cannot take the field: he is also aware that cholera inflicts severe losses upon us; which are aggravated by the difficulty we have in burying the horses. Under these circumstances, I address these few lines to your Lordship, with the hope that such representations may be instantly made to General Omar, to act with vigour and decision against Georgia."

He had been writing meanwhile, ineffectually, to Omar himself. But Omar had been thwarted in all his wishes by the authorities, and what could he do? We dare say, he was in no very good temper. He had suffered, like others, from the jealousy with which men of mediocrity pursue men of parts. He was in want of money; the treasury at Constantinople was in want of money. De Redcliffe blamed him, of course. But the Seraskier clears Omar. All this time the Turks were longing for a slice of their loan, without which everything was at a stand-still. They complain that they could not get their loan. Omar Pacha complains he could do nothing for want of authority. Mansfield attributes the hitch to the Alliance. De Redcliffe complains of everybody. Such was the happy state of things when the doom of Kars drew nigh. Selim Pacha, meanwhile, would not stir a step with his troops. The agony ended in November; and Kars fell. Omar Pacha has been unable to effect its safety; and in December was considered by Lord Clarendon to be in danger himself.

These are the outlines of the Story of Kars, and we may now contemplate it as one more episode of modern cyclopean history. Lord Malmes-

bury gives notice of a motion on the subject, after the Easter recess. We shall have, everywhere, discussions about it, for some time; and need not do more than briefly sum up the results now. The following are the salient points which seize our attention in reviewing the tale:—

1st.—That Lord Stratford de Redcliffe grossly neglected his duties to General Williams; and proved himself unfit for his position of Ambassador.

2nd.—That the Turkish military officers and chiefs in Asia, appear to have been corrupt and scandalously inefficient.

3rd.—That Omar Pacha did not receive fair play, or would probably have saved us from this humiliation.

4th.—That the Porte was unfairly neglected in the matter of the loan, and thus embarrassed in whatever projects of relief it may have been fit to undertake.

5th.—That there was not shown by our Government at home, any such resource of mind or vigour of action as was likely to remedy the deficiencies of means and conduct which existed in the East.

THE TURKISH HAREM.

EVERY scene of Turkish life has, by recent events, been invested with new interest; and, in present circumstances, the illustration on the previous page will be regarded with no slight curiosity.

The Harem, as our readers are doubtless well aware, is the name given to the women's apartments in a Turkish mansion, and has been picturesquely described as "the broad marble halls and deeply-shaded gardens, where beauty and mystery dwell." Imagine a chamber some hundred feet long, the flooring of veined marble, the walls painted in the Byzantine style, with domed ceilings, windows occupying a whole side, and sometimes two sides of the room, looking into a garden in which there is a lake, and you will have before you the kind of scene which our engraving represents.

The Harem, however, is by no means so romantic a place as people generally suppose. The fair beings gathered within its walls are, for one thing, too miscellaneous. The widowed mother of the owner, if she is alive, has the privilege of presiding over the establishment, which is, moreover, the home of aunts, sisters, grandmothers, and other aged relatives.

In addition to these, the Harem is, of course, stocked with persons somewhat more interesting—namely, lawful wives and favoured slaves. Mahometans of the higher class generally indulge in a plurality of wives; and, though the number of his spouses is limited to four, there is no restriction as to the number of his slaves. And it appears that the domestic station is such as to leave little to distinguish them from those attached to him by legal bonds.

The Turkish damsel, it appears, until she is about nine years of age, may spend her time in the Harem or in the salem-lick, that part of the house occupied by men, just as suits her fancy, but that stage of life being attained, she has no longer any such liberty. She is then ordered to the Harem, and henceforth appears in the salem-lick no more. To this rule there are, of course, exceptions. Between the wives and the favourite slaves, there is usually a difference of race; the former being generally natives of their husbands' country, while the latter are of Georgian or Circassian birth. Circassian girls are seldom reluctant to be sold in Turkey; indeed, those beneath a certain rank look upon such sale, on the part of their father, as a proof of his anxiety for the welfare of his daughters. Therefore, unless the Circassian has seen a youth upon whom to lavish her young affections, she usually desires to be sent to Stambul. If her father be willing, she is sold to a merchant, who takes her to the land she has chosen. These Jew traders are said to find that cultivation of the intellect adds much to the beauty of the features, and spare no pains to add to the value of their property, especially if the damsel is promising. She is sent to a ladies' school, where she is carefully instructed in the accomplishments essential to a Turkish gentlewoman. And if she be very beautiful, she will be taught reading, writing, Turkish, Arabic, and Persian literature; these will be an additional recommendation in the eyes of a wealthy Osmanli. After two to four years—according to Mr. Treney—spent in this seminary, the young girl is fit for sale. Her "condition," then, receives the most unremitting attention, for a few months. The doctor in attendance at the establishment visits her constantly. She is fed very carefully; she is daily bathed very discreetly; cosmetics of the most excellent kind are pressed into use. All these things are done that her limbs and face may appear beautifully rounded, and that her skin may be pure, pale, clear; in a word, that she may look her very loveliest. The Circassian girls always bring a larger price than the Georgian. Their beauty is of a higher type. They are more intellectual. They can manage a household better—indeed, the Circassian ladies may be classed amongst the most skilful and most saving housewives in the world.

The slaves have, as will be supposed, the advantage of being, in most cases, much better educated than the wives; and have, moreover, the advantage of being seen before being purchased, whereas the wife is taken on the faith of mere verbal description, and is not unlikely to cause a good deal of disappointment.

Mr. M. Milner, in his "Palm Leaves," has exercised the privilege of a poet in surrounding the Harem with an air of deep calm and soft repose:—

"Behind the veil, where depth is traced
By many a complicated line—
Behind the lattice closely heerd
With flange of choice design—
Behind the lofty garden wall,
Where stranger face can ne'er surprise,—
That inner world her all-in-all,
The Eastern woman lives and dies.

"Within the gay kiosks reclined,
Above the scent of lemon groves,
Where bubbling fountains kiss the wind,
And birds make music to their loves,—
She lives a kind of fairy life
In sisterhood of fruits and flowers,
Unconscious of the outer strife
That wears the palpitating hours."

We gather, however, from less imaginative writers, that this "fairy life," is at the best a very dull kind of existence, and that not seldom the Harem may, without injustice, be compared to what is called "the school-room" of an English gentleman's house, where three or four girls of twelve to fifteen are teasing their grandmother, or romping with some favourite maid-servant. True, ladies visit one another there, not to talk, but to nestle in the cushions and to sleep. The restraint put upon Turkish women varies with the ideas of their lords. Thus we read, that one Osmanli allows his wives to come to meals with him in the salem-lick, or he and his children go to take them at the Harem; and another permits them to live in the Harem or salem-lick indiscriminately: only they must remember to make their hastiest flight on the announcement of that spectre—a man. Left to themselves, it seems that they have little ambition to rival that nymph, who threw herself into the sea to avoid the embraces of Jupiter. Even inmates of the Imperial Harem have no objection to a change of admirers. We read, for instance, that the favourite wife of one of the sultans was allowed to visit the theatre of Pera, and her wagon was, with befitting ceremony, drawn into the pit by bullocks. She remained in the carriage during the whole of the performance, but finding that the crowd around her was almost entirely composed of "Franks," she soon contrived to get her yashmak into such a state of disarrangement, as to ensure its falling down from time to time and displaying the charms of her countenance. On another occasion, it is related the wazons of the Imperial Harem, while resting under the shade of some trees, were encountered by a party of Englishmen. The latter had the misfortune to be accompanied by a courier, very much handsomer than themselves, and were intensely disgusted at the marks of admiration which were lavished on him by the sultanas and

their evident desire that the feeling should be reciprocal. The way, it would seem, for an adventurous traveller to find his way into the interior of a place so jealously secured, as our engraving represents, is put on the attire of a woman and gain admission on pretence of carrying choice trifles from London or Paris, and especially toilet luxuries, which however vigilantly guarded these harems may be, it appears that the inmates find various means of communicating with the outer world, so that even in the Imperial Harem the numerous inmates experience no difficulty in finding lovers.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE "Moniteur" has published an imperial decree calling out for active service the 110,000 young soldiers of the class of 1855.

The Emperor gave an audience on Sunday to Mgr. Sacconi, the Papal Nuncio, who delivered to his Majesty a letter from the Pope. Baron Manderstrom, the Swedish Minister, also delivered letters from the King and Queen of Sweden.

The seventh and eighth meetings of the Congress took place on Monday and Wednesday.

SPAIN.

THE Grand Central Company has obtained the concession of the railway from Madrid to Saragossa, with a grant from the Government of 55,000fr. per kilometre (five-eighths of a mile). The same company, jointly with the house of Rothschild, has purchased from M. de Salamanca the railway from Alicante to Madrid. These two railways will form one line from the south to the north of Spain. The Government has presented fresh customs tariffs, which are favourable to Catalan manufactures.

AUSTRIA.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF has received a summons to go to St. Petersburg.

The speech of the Emperor Napoleon has produced a disagreeable impression at Vienna, as but slight mention is made of Austria, while England and Sardinia are brought into the strongest possible relief.

It is said that when peace is concluded, Count Buol intends again to direct his attention to a claim which Austria made on the Porte when Count Leiningen went on his mission to Constantinople. What is desired is the cession of a little strip of land, called the Sutorina, which runs into the Austrian territory in Dalmatia, and has frequently led to quarrels.

PRUSSIA.

AN important proposition has just been presented to the Berlin Chamber of Deputies, calling attention to "the legitimate complaints which have been raised for many years past, particularly in the Eastern provinces, against the charges resulting from the Russian prohibitive system and from the closing of the Russian frontiers."

The President of Police, Herr Von Hinckeladay, was, on Monday morning, shot in a duel by Herr Von Rochow, whom he had felt obliged to challenge.

Prince Frederick William, only son of the Prince of Prussia, and heir presumptive to the Crown, will, it is rumoured, pay a new visit to England in May next, and it will be of some duration. It is thought that the prospects of alliance between our Royal family and that of England, which were formed a long time ago, will be realised on this occasion.

RUSSIA.

THE greatest confidence is said to be felt at St. Petersburg in a favourable issue of the negotiations. The price of all kinds of merchandise is continually rising.

Some noblemen of Prussian Silesia, having presented an address to the Czar, thanking him for the readiness he had manifested to effect a peace, he said in reply:—

"I thank you, gentlemen, for the sentiments and wishes expressed both in your name and in the name of all Prussians to whom the Christian and peaceful sentiments of their Sovereign are dear and sacred. I also hope that God will favourably hear the prayers which I and those who share my sentiments, incessantly offer to Him for the success of this attempt."

The Russian Chancellor of State, Jakowlew, who is the proprietor of large metallurgical works in that country, has just given the Government about two millions of kilogrammes of metal for the extraordinary wants of the army and navy.

SARDINIA.

ON the 6th inst., the first regiment of the Anglo-Italian Legion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Coutts Lindsay, arrived at Genoa for embarkation. The work of embarkation was effected in about an hour by the aid of large barges, or rather of one large (which held 300 or 400 men) and several smaller, carrying nearly 100 each. The perfect order and discipline with which this operation was conducted astonished and delighted all who witnessed it; and the cheerfulness with which the men went on board proves that all attempts to seduce them from their duty have completely failed.

TURKEY.

LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE has presented a note from the English Government, asking the Porte to allow the occupation by English troops, for an indefinite period, of Varna, Gallipoli, and Candia, as a guarantee of the proposed internal reforms.

According to advices from Constantinople to the 3rd inst., Selim Pacha is to be tried before a Council of War. It is said he had 10,000 good troops under him, and might have relieved Kars with half that force. General Williams, Vassif Pacha, and the Governor of Erzeroum, are reported all to have made strong representations to the Porte as to his conduct.

By recent intelligence, there had been a financial crisis at Constantinople. The Exchange on London had risen to 137 piastres the pound sterling.

An order to suspend hostilities had been sent to Omar Pacha and Selim Pacha.

The construction of barracks continued on both sides of the Bosphorus, at Constantinople.

The English were planning an encampment in Asia.

UNITED STATES.

ACCORDING to the advices brought by the steamer *Washington* from New York to the 23rd ult., emigration to Nicaragua has become a passion with young Americans of family and position. The Senate had ordered the printing of 10,000 maps of Central America, copies of those prepared by the Coast Survey, all the maps of that region now in use being of British origin.

In Kansas a pro-slavery movement is afoot to procure southern emigrants to aid in combating Abolitionists. The "Herald of Freedom," published at Lawrence, gives an account of the preparations making there for the civil war expected on or about March 4th. It says:—

"Generals Robinson and Leno have adopted precautionary measures, and organised a regiment and placed the several forts in charge of suitable persons, and these are being guarded night and day to prevent a surprise. In the meantime munitions of war are being collected, and will be held in readiness for instant service. We understand that an attack is also expected at Topeka, and that our friends there are also preparing for defence. The friends of freedom in the east may be prepared at any time to hear of the blow being struck. When the war shall be opened again in Kansas it will be under different auspices than on former occasions; it will be a struggle in earnest, and we appeal to our friends in the north and east to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice to our rescue. They may rest assured that the people of Kansas will stand upon the right, and that they will die before they will surrender."

POLITICAL JEALOUSY IN PARIS.—"Le Nord" states that an incident occurred a few days ago in one of the chief salons of Paris, which serves to show that the rivalry of the chiefs of the ancient parties against the existing regime is far from extinct. In the midst of the soirée, Count Belmont and Count Morny were announced. M. and Madame Tiers, M. and Madame Renouart, M. and Madame d'Haussonville, and other visitors, immediately rose, saluted the mistress of the house, and withdrew. The salon was then almost empty; two or three diplomatists alone remained to keep M. M. Flahault and Morny company.

The War.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

EXECUTION OF PRIVATE G. DAY.

GENERAL SIR W. CODRINGTON, writing to Lord Panmure, on Feb.

20th inst.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraphic message from the Adjutant-General in England, in reference to the man of this army under sentence of death for murder. There are no political circumstances to interfere with the just punishment due to such a crime, committed on a helpless, defenceless man in hospital. Painful though the duty may be, with a sense of the responsibility attaching to human life, but with the conviction that the decision is just and necessary, I have ordered the execution of this man on Saturday morning next, the 23rd instant, in conformity with the sentence of the court."

General Codrington adds the following postscript to the above, on the day of the execution:—
"This prisoner, Private G. Day, No. 3,577, 77th Regiment, was executed this morning, at 7 a.m., on the Picket House Hill, in the presence of detachments of 100 men from each division of the army. His body was buried on the spot."

GRAND MILITARY REVIEW.

Sebastopol, Feb. 20.—The review of a large portion of the British infantry, which had been expected for some weeks past, but which had been postponed on account of unfavourable weather, took place on the 24th instant, and offered a magnificent sight to a vast concourse of French and Sardinian officers and soldiers, and perhaps among other spectators to not a few Russians. The site chosen for the parade and inspection was the brow of a hill behind the Guards' camp, and must have been plainly visible from the Mackenzie heights. The Commander of the Forces, Sir William Codrington, arrived about one o'clock, with a large staff, and was received by the divisions in line. The troops subsequently marched past in half distance column, each division being headed by its general and staff. The appearance of the troops as they moved past was as favourable as could well be imagined, and the whole scene was remarkably brilliant and exciting. The vigorous frames, healthy countenances, and elastic tread of the soldiers, could not fail to strike the attention as the gay uniforms attracted the eyes of the spectators. The officers and men of the French and Sardinian armies who were present, evidently looked on with admiration. The Guards brigade, and the Highlanders in their picturesque costume, only the killed regiments being present, especially attracted notice. Marshal Pelissier was present in his carriage, and seemed to examine each regiment as it went by with scrutinising closeness. There were also several French general officers on the field; among others General Espinasse, who had only arrived a few days before in the Crimea, and a very large body of other officers, both on horseback and foot, who manifested great interest in the proceedings. General Sir Colin Campbell was also on the ground.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS.

A general order appeared last night in which General Sir William Codrington animadverts very strongly on the conduct of some correspondent of the London press, who has described the fortifications at Kerch with unparalled minuteness. Incidents mentioned to English and French prisoners by the enemy, and other circumstances, have proved that so complete were the means of intelligence possessed by the Russians as to what was passing in the camps of the Allies, that comparatively trifling circumstances became known to them, almost as soon as they occurred, long before any letters from the camp could have reached England; and it really seems doubtful whether they ever acquired a knowledge of one fact of importance from this latter source.

The following are the most important paragraphs of the order of the day referred to:—

"The notice of the Commander of the Forces has been brought to the publication in a newspaper, by a correspondent at Kerch, of minute details of lines and works, strength of garrison, and various military arrangements; all, however old and incorrect they may be, published for our enemies, under the supposition that such things are necessary for the interest or amusement of the people of England.

"The people of England have more common sense. They do not want to see the interests of the army betrayed by the thoughtless activity of a correspondent, or by the wish of any one else to see himself in print.

"The Commander of the Forces has referred General Vivian to the details published from the district he commands. He authorises him to arrest the individual, and send him away at once, unless he has reason to believe that such folly will not be repeated.

"The Commander of the Forces has occasionally seen similar things from this camp.—Strength of regiments, sickness, batteries, guns, quantity of ammunition, the state of preparation, means of transport, the very situation of concealed batteries, the strength of pickets, the best means of attacking them—all recklessly detailed, as if on purpose to instruct an enemy."

"REDAN MASSEY."

Lieutenant Massey, or, as he is popularly called, "Redan Massey," of whom we gave a portrait and memoir in our 25th number, has left the Crimea on his way back to England. A "shave" has been current here for some time, that Massey was about to leave the English service and enter the French army. How such a rumour could have gained currency for one moment, it is difficult to conceive; but in our camp the most improbable and extraordinary rumours are constantly afloat. The conduct of Lieutenant Massey at the attack on the Redan, is no doubt favourably remembered by all newspaper readers. He is not only a man of daring courage in the field, but among his brother officers he is highly esteemed on account of his many excellent private qualities. It is a matter of regret to many that the gallant officer should have been compelled to leave through indisposition.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE WORKS AT SEBASTOPOL.—THE ARMISTICE.

The White Works at Sebastopol were blown up on the 25th of February. Generals Timoeff, Martimprey, Windham, and Colonel Pettiti, met yesterday at Traktir Bridge. The three latter presented conditions for an armistice agreed upon by the Commanders-in-Chief. General Timoeff transmitted them to General Ladurs.

The health of the troops is excellent. The bad weather is over.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

THERE is still a profound mystery preserved respecting the proceeding of the Conference; and it is only now and then that some trifling facts or rumours ooze out, which from their nature cannot be implicitly relied upon. One correspondent says, that the "gossip in Paris indicates the internal agitation—one might almost say convulsions—of the Council Chamber where the pacification of the world is said to be in progress. If this be really true, then these spasmodic symptoms remind one of a woman in trouble. For the sake of France, I wish that the *accouchement* of the Empress may prove less difficult than the doubtful conception of the Four Points to the maternal solicitude of the Plenipotentiaries for the felicity of mankind. Lord Clarendon looks anxious and worried; Count Cavour, who is a literary man and a philosopher, seems to rejoice in the confusion of others; Count Walewski is lost in the vastness of combinations; and poor Ash Pacha is on the point of dying from indigestion, in consequence of being both obliged to abstain from smoking for a great part of the day, and devouring too sumptuous dinners, with which people, in their cordiality, positively overwhelm him. The Russians are the only ones who thrive amidst their imaginary discomfort. They are treated with *embarassement* and distinction everywhere, and look pleased at the adulations—and at say o'ations—offered up to the departed spirit of Nicholas and the martyrdom of Holy Russia."

Another correspondent says, "It is reported in Paris that a difficulty is on the tapis. I know not if such be the case or not, but even suppose the Allies differ for the moment on any one particular question now under consideration, I am sure it is not likely to lead to any serious results. My reason for saying this much is—1. Because most of the main difficulties are already agreed upon. 2. Because there is evidently a desire on the part of the Plenipotentiaries to arrive at a pacific solution, and whilst such a spirit animates the Envoys, we know how easy it is to do away with objections. The Russian Plenipotentiaries must have learned by this time that France and England will not give up any points which they consider necessary for the protection of Turkey. Austria has played her card and turned down the trick; there is no longer any question about the mouths of the Danube."

PREPARATIONS IN PARIS FOR THE BIRTH OF AN IMPERIAL INFANT.

THE *accouchement* of the Empress is now expected from one day to another, and everything is in a state of complete preparation for the event. The Pope is to be godfather of the child, and his Holiness will be represented by a Cardinal sent expressly for the purpose. The Queen of Sweden will be the godmother, and will be represented by a special envoy. Her Majesty is first cousin to the Emperor, being daughter of Eugene Beauharnais, brother of Queen Hortense.

The Imperial *layette* is the most attractive exhibition in Paris. The public is admitted to see it by tickets, which Madlle. Felicie gives to any respectable person for the asking. For several days the Rue Vivienne and the Place de la Bourse have been blocked up by gay carriages, belonging to fashionable people, come to see the swaddling clothes.

The majority, of course, of those who press to see this remarkable sight are ladies, and of these English ladies form a very large proportion. The first thing that strikes one on entering the rooms where the two complete infantine *trousseaux*, masculine and feminine, have been laid out by Madlle. Felicie with exquisite taste, is the amazing superfluity of the outfit. There are napkins, caps, frocks, chemises, petticoats, jackets, wrappers, hats, bonnets, shoes, drawers, cloaks, mantles, mantelets, capes, talmas, muffs, collars, socks, stockings, flannels, rattles, pillows, and hosts of nameless articles pertaining to a nursery; enough to set up a foundling hospital. The colours of all the habiliments are white and sky blue. There is a very pretty cradle (not the one given by the city of Paris, which is not yet quite finished) with white lace and blue hangings. This cradle alone cost 25,000fr., and the hangings of the cradle room 40,000fr. The cost of the whole outfit is several hundred thousand francs.

The imperial crown is embroidered upon every article. The ladies examine everything most minutely, and the constant cries of the *sergents-de-ville* on duty that touching is not allowed, are all impotent to prevent the curious fair from taking up the fine fabrics in their hands to look at them closer. Some of Madlle. Felicie's assistant *artistes* walk about the *salons* and answer all questions with graceful *emproisement*. Although everybody will have it that the child is to be a prince, Madlle. Felicie seems to have more especially lavished the cunning of her art upon certain dainty little blue bonnets, which it were pity to think would never be wanted. The toilette, whether for a boy or girl, is complete with everything that can possibly be required up to the age of two years.

The following programme of the ceremony to be observed has been published:—

"When the last pains of labour shall be felt, their Excellencies the Minister of State and the Keepers of the Seals shall be sent for and brought into the chamber. Such of the princes and princesses shall also be admitted as His Majesty may deem advisable. When the child shall have been presented to the Emperor and to the Empress by the head nurse, it will be presented to his Excellency the Minister of State, and to his Excellency the Keeper of the Seals, who will at once proceed to the saloon occupied by his Excellency the President of the Council of State, fulfilling the functions attributed to him by the 13th article of the Imperial statute of the 21st of June, 1853. A formal statement of the birth of the child will be drawn up. The Imperial child will then be carried to its apartment by the head nurse, accompanied by her sub-nurses, the General Commanding the Imperial Guard, and the Querry on duty. In this apartment will be assembled the persons appointed by the Emperor to wait upon the Imperial child. The Emperor having returned to his state apartments, will receive the congratulations of the persons assembled in the Empress's apartments. On the day or on the morrow of the confinement, the Imperial child will be privately baptised in the Palace Chapel by the Emperor's First Almoner, in presence of the princes and princesses of the Imperial family, the princes and princesses of the family of the Emperor holding rank at Court, the mother of the Empress, the grand officers of the Crown, the cardinals, ministers, marshals, admirals, President of the Senate, &c. After the ceremony of baptism, a *Te Deum* will be celebrated, and before the *Te Deum* the Royal child will have been taken to his own apartment. The Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour will take to the Imperial Prince the Grand Cordon of that order, and the military medal. The princes and princesses, relations of the Emperor and Empress, will be informed of the birth of the Imperial Prince by letters written by the Emperor himself, and conveyed by officers of his household. The Senate and Legislative body will receive the information from an officer of the Emperor's household; the birth will be announced in the same manner to the municipal authorities of Paris. The Grand Master of the Ceremonies will send a master of the ceremonies to the ambassadors, and an assistant of the ceremonies to the foreign Ministers, to announce the birth of the child. Each Minister, in his department, will take the suitable measures to inform his agents of the birth, abroad as well as at home. As soon as the Imperial Prince is born, a salvo of 101 guns will be fired; the same salvo will be fired in countries occupied by French troops. In the evening the public buildings will be illuminated.

On the morrow, or on the day after the morrow, of the Empress's confinement, the Emperor, having received the congratulations of the diplomatic body, will ascend the throne. His Majesty will be surrounded by the Princes of the Imperial family and by the other members of the Emperor's family holding rank at Court; as also the grand officers of the Crown, the officers of the household, cardinals, marshals, admirals, and all the other functionaries, &c. The President of the Senate and of the Legislative Body will alone harangue the Emperor. All these different bodies will be presented as is usual on solemn presentations. On leaving the audience of the Emperor, they will be admitted to the new-born prince. They will meet in the Salon de la Paix, and will successively be admitted to the apartment of the Imperial Prince. They will leave it by the door opposite to the one by which they entered. As soon as the health of the Empress will allow it, her Majesty will appoint the days upon which she will receive the congratulations of the princes and princesses, ladies of the palace, wives of the ministers, &c., and the congratulations of the high officers of the Crown, cardinals, marshals, admirals, &c. Her Majesty will also receive the congratulations of the members of the diplomatic body and of her ladies. The Empress will receive all these congratulations in her easy chair. When her health is completely restored, the Empress will be lifted up by the Grand Almoner, according to the special ceremony drawn up. The ceremony of the public baptism of the Imperial Prince will take at Notre Dame after the churching of her Majesty. Immediately after that ceremony, a solemn "Te Deum" will be performed. A "Te Deum" will be chanted in the church of Notre Dame of Paris, and in all the churches of France on the Sunday following the day of the birth.

THE SADLEIR FRAUDS.

FRESH discoveries in connection with the Irish branch of the Saddleir frauds are hourly coming to light. The "Carlow Sentinel" states that some very stupid forgeries upon the Tipperary Bank have turned up. Whence this description of paper emanated, no one can even conjecture, but it is certain that payment has been applied for by the Secretary of the Bank of Ireland. The forged documents appear to have been given as securities to the Bank of Ireland, and the persons who have received notice to pay them have repudiated all connection with them. If such bills are really fictitious, the truth or falsehood will be unravelled before the Master in Chancery. The trade report of the "Freeman's Journal" has the following explanatory remarks in reference to the charge made upon the Bank of Ireland by another journal:—

"Previous to the year 1845, an arrangement was made with the Bank of Ireland by the Tipperary Bank on the same terms as those made by the Bank of England with the non-issuing banks in England—viz., that so long as the Tipperary Bank did not issue notes, they were entitled to have their approved bills discounted by the bank at 1 per cent. under the current rate. At this time, the Tipperary Bank occupied a position of great independence, and was undoubtedly in apparently very prosperous circumstances. We have further the fact that the Bank of Ireland is a creditor for a very large sum, it is supposed £20,000 at least, much, if not most, of which arose from its continuing to pay after Glynn and Co. had refused, and from a similar continuance at the branches, where it is understood considerable sums were paid to the order of the Tipperary Bank, in both cases in the vain hope that the ruin might be averted.

"Much is yet to be discovered and investigated. We have as yet no idea what has become of the rest of the money. It is stated that Mr. John Saddleir has drawn £300,000, and there are assets £25,000. On the other side are—first, capital, stated to be £100,000, and liabilities, £430,000, leaving about £330,000 altogether unaccounted for. It is generally believed that Mr. James Saddleir has gone abroad, and it is at least evident he must have had more knowledge of the state of affairs than is alleged by the letters of his unhappy brother. It is now generally supposed that those shareholders who have retired within the three years will have to be called on to contribute to those debts which were outstanding, and which are believed to be more considerable than appeared at first, although there is little doubt that the ultimate result has been long foreseen, and some management used to relieve some of the parties from their liability. Not the least curious circumstance is the large addition of English shareholders (whether substantial or otherwise remains to be seen) which took place during the past year, all, or nearly all, it is believed, through the same channel. Altogether, what is known is bad enough; but it seems pretty clear that what is only matter of conjecture, or wholly in the dark, will be worse."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN having, on Wednesday, held the third and last levee for this season at St. James's Palace, will leave Buckingham Palace on Monday next for Windsor Castle, where the King of the Belgians is to arrive on the following day.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT have forwarded £30 to the fund now being raised for the addition of a swimming bath to the other advantages of the Royal Naval School at New Cross.

MADAME MICHAL—a Swedish lady, described as possessing a beautiful voice—has been singing in the north of Germany, and is shortly to appear at the Opera in Berlin as Queen of Night in the "Zauberflöte."

THE PRELATES AND PROCTORS of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury have been cited to meet at the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, on the 15th of April, for the transaction of important business.

MR. MACAULAY has been burnt in effigy by the Highlanders of Glenmore, in revenge for his treatment of their ancestors, in the second volume of his History. Picco, the blind "Sardinian minstrel," gave his first concert in England at the Hanover Square Rooms, on the evening of Saturday last.

PALMER OF REMELEY'S TRIAL will, it is understood, be fixed for the May sessions, at the Central Criminal Court, under the new criminal bill, which will shortly become an Act of Parliament.

PRINCE JEROME BONAPARTE was one evening last week exposed to a severe attack of apoplexy.

GENERAL WILLIAMS had, by the last accounts, recovered his health, and left Tiflis for Moscow.

WORKS OF ART for exhibition at the Royal Academy this year must be sent in on Monday the 7th and Tuesday the 8th of April.

GUSTAVUS HEINE, brother of Henry Heine, who lately died at Paris, is about to erect to the memory of the latter a monument which will cost 10,000fr.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT is reported to have issued 100,000,000 of paper money.

COUNT NESSELRODE, it is said, will retire from public affairs immediately after the conclusion of peace.

GEORGE JONES, convicted of the wilful murder of Mr. Hope, the surgeon of the convict hulk at Portsmouth, will be executed at Winchester on the 22nd inst.

MR. H. INGRAM was last week elected M.P. for the borough of Boston.

MC CAUL AND CONNOR, apothecary's assistants in Newry, who miscompounded a prescription, and caused the death of Captain Kent, of the 4th Lancashire Militia, were last week found guilty of manslaughter.

MR. DAVID BEYCE, architect, has been elected a member of the Royal Scottish Academy, in the room of the late Mr. Patric Park.

M. d'EFINAY, Attorney-General at the Ministry, lately died in Paris, where he was on leave of absence.

MR. WYNNE, the Conservative candidate, has been elected for Sligo by a majority of forty over Senators.

SIR DE L. EVANS has postponed his motion on the subject of recruiting in the United States till after Easter.

MR. CARLILE, we hear, will publish his "Life of Frederick the Great," in four volumes, about Christmas.

MARSHAL PELISSIER, it is reported, keeps his person as sacred and as much concealed from the eyes of common mortals as some Eastern deity.

THE SULTAN has conferred the Order of Medjidie upon the Sardinian Minister Cibrario and Admiral Albini.

PALMER'S DEFENCE will, it appears, be mainly a scientific one, and eminent chemists and anatomists (including M. Maguire, of Paris) have been retained, to resist, as far as possible, the deductions of Dr. Taylor and Dr. Ross.

THE REV. G. A. OLDHAM, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, late curate of Dorking, Surrey, has left the Church of England and joined the communion of Rome.

THE SITTING OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY for the reception of the Duke de Broglie, is postponed to the 3rd of April, in consequence of the Easter vacation.

THE EARL OF SOUTHERN has disposed of the Highland estates of Glendye and Strachan to Sir Thomas Gladstone, Bart., at the price of £70,000.

THE TWO GOLD MEDALS given annually by the Chancellor of Cambridge University to the two commencing bachelors of arts, who, having obtained senior optimes at least, show themselves the greatest proficient in classical learning, have been adjudged to E. L. Brown, Trinity College, and T. B. Rowe, St. John's College.

THE PARIS "PRENSSE" announces that measures have been taken to expel from the Bourse women who, to evade the rule against the admission of females, have lately been in the habit of going there in male attire.

M. KOSSUTH will lecture, on the 26th instant, at the new lecture-room adjoining Spafford's chapel, on "the concordat between the Pope and Austria, with special reference to Hungary and her Protestantism."

SIR EDMUND LYONS, it is rumoured at the naval and military clubs, will shortly be raised to the Peerage.

AN ORDER IN COUNCIL has been printed, placing the department of Science and Art under the Lord President of the Council, thus subordinating it to the education department.

THE BISHOP OF RIGON was at Berlin last week, for the purpose of confirming the children of English residents there.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY have resolved to devote the north wing of the building to form a gallery for the exhibition of pictures by living painters of all the schools in Europe.

A CONVERSAZIONE is to be held in the Hanover Square Rooms this evening, Lord Panmure in the chair, to inaugurate the Young Women's Christian Association.

PRINCE PETER OF OLDENBURG is appointed Stadtholder of the Baltic provinces, in the place of Count Suwarow, hitherto Governor of Liefland, Esthland, and Courland.

A PROJECT IS ON FOOT for the formation of a new joint-stock bank at Birmingham, with a capital of £200,000, subject to increase to £500,000.

A CORPORAL OF A LINE REGIMENT, stationed at Calais, has just inherited a fortune of 75,000,000fr.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA is said to be making military preparations to repel any attack of an English squadron on the coasts of his kingdom.

THE ORDER OF THE GARTER, vacant by the death of the Duke of Norfolk, according to the rumours at Madrid, is to be given to Espartero.

A NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL is to be built near Eldad, Plymouth, to accommodate the three thousand Roman Catholics in that neighbourhood.

M. LACOSTE, the Belgian Consul at Mauritius, has opened a subscription for purchasing Napoleon Vale, in the Island of St. Helena, in which the tomb of Napoleon is situated, and has himself given 1,000 piastres.

MR. HINDLEY, M.P., is to be presented with a testimonial, consisting of his portrait, at the Town Hall, Ashton, on Easter Monday, the 24th inst.

M. TISSERAUD, the gentleman sent to this country by the French Minister of Agriculture, has been busy visiting farmers in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF DENMARK has decided on the establishment of a journal to give shorthand reports of the proceedings, and the admission of the public to the sittings.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH is said by the "Espana," a Madrid journal, to entertain, in reference to Spain, some very formidable design, to be carried into effect as soon as peace shall be concluded.

MR. W. J. FOX, M.P., has given notice of various amendments intended to be moved by him in committee on education on Lord John Russell's resolutions.

THE ARCHDUKE FERDINAND MAXIMILIAN has directed that a new screw schooner, which is building at Venice, shall be christened "Silvestro Dandolo."

DRURY LANE THEATRE was last Friday night discovered to be on fire during the performance, but it was checked in time to prevent particular damage.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE went last week in a close carriage to the warehouses of Mademoiselle Felicie, to examine the "layette" prepared for the expected Imperial infant, and was pleased to express her satisfaction at the admirable manner in which her directions had been observed.

SIR J. DEAN PAUL was on Tuesday brought into the Court of Bankruptcy for the purpose of being examined, and his appearance, which was care-worn and dejected, excited a murmur of sympathy amongst the crowd.

A COMMERCIAL CRISIS has taken place in Norway, and it is asserted that in the city of Bergen alone twenty-two commercial houses have stopped payment.

THE NEWS THAT RUSSIAN SHIPS OF WAR had issued forth from Swenborg is formally contradicted by an interchange of electric despatches between Berlin and St. Petersburg.

THE HANOVERIAN CHAMBERS are to be opened on the 3rd of April, and the Government is actively engaged in arrangements for putting the institutions of the country in harmony with the new constitution.

THE LORD MAYOR gave a grand dinner at the Mansion House, on Tuesday evening, to a numerous party, including the American Minister.

M. PAUL DUBOIS has been installed in the apartments at the Tuileries which his father, Antoine Dubois, occupied forty-five years ago at the *accouchement* of the Empress Marie Louise.

DOING THE ORIENTAL.

"SMOKE!" said the Major, as I handed him the last box of regalias which Mr. Beyont had forwarded to me, "smoke! I should think I did. I have lived on tobacco, sir, ever since I was twelve years old. Many a time, when boxed up in slow provincial quarters, it has been my sole consolation; my pipe was my best friend, the most faithful and the most desired, during all last dreary winter in the Crimea; and when I crawled out from the hospital at Scutari, my first request was for tobacco. No one," continued he, after exhaling the first puffs, the gray clouds of which hung in fantastic wreaths round his head, "No one can appreciate the blessings of tobacco, and its calming, soothing influence, until they have been half-killed by hunger, fatigue, or sheer monotony and ennui. Half the men, principally of the old school, who oppose the habit so strongly, do so simply from conventional prejudice, and if they have but the pluck to make one trial of the weed, generally stick to it for life. There was a curious instance happened lately. Five years ago, I went to stop in the house of a Captain Burke, who had a pretty place enough in the neighbourhood of Loughrea, where his regiment was quartered. I'd met him at a county ball, and we'd talked about fishing, and water-colour sketches, and other things in which we took a mutual interest, and the result was this invitation, which I accepted. Well, for the first day or two it was jolly enough. A good host, a pleasant hostess, and a very pretty hostess' sister, make time pass pleasantly. But there was one drawback to all this felicity. Burke couldn't bear the smell of tobacco, his wife fainted at it, and his sister-in-law shuddered when the name was mentioned. They took deuced good care to let me know this the first evening I was there. They dined late; I couldn't sneak out for a whiff; and my condition was growing desperate. The longing for a cigar increased so upon me, that I verily believe I was becoming ill for the want of one. This state of things couldn't last. On

the third night of my visit, when all the house was quiet, I jumped out of bed, wrapped myself in my dressing gown, lit a cigar, and stuck my head far out of window. It was blowing half a gale of wind, and before I'd been there ten minutes, I could scarcely hold the weed for the chattering of my teeth. I thought I heard a row outside the bed-room door, against which boots were undeniably kicking. 'What's the matter?' roars I.

to recall. 'But,' said I, after assuring him of my forgiveness, 'how is it that I see you with a pipe in your hand?' 'My dear fellow,' he answered, 'I am now never without one. The regiment was ordered to India, and that's where I first learned to love the weed, and my wife to endure it. I'm in the Turkish Contingent now, with a staff appointment, and a house at Renkioi. Come over there as soon as you're well enough,

'Come out, sir!' roars Burke in return. 'What for?' I asked. 'The house is full of smoke, sir,' he answered, choking and coughing awfully. 'Perhaps it's the kitchen chimney,' says I; for I thought perhaps he mightn't have seen 'Box and Cox,' and wouldn't know the joke. Whether he did so or not, he answered safe enough, 'Sir, the kitchen chimney doesn't smoke tobacco! You've violated the laws of hospitality, and I hope never to see your face again.' That was a settler; I was off the next morning before anybody was up, and never went near Loughrea again.

"Well, Sir, last August, I obtained permission from the doctors to leave the hospital, for that infernal thigh wound which I got at the Redan was beginning to look like healing, and I was accordingly transported to a little place called Istenia, about seven miles from Scutari. The first morning after my arrival, leaning on my servant's arm, I crawled round to a coffee house in the neighbourhood, in the garden of which were seated two officers—one British, the other French—enjoying their pipes and coffee. I bowed as I passed them, the Frenchman sprang to his feet and saluted me; the Englishman merely raised his cap. But that was enough for me; I saw a scar on the centre of his forehead, and recognised Burke in an instant, in spite of his beard and his stoutness. He stared hard at me, then rushed forward and seized me by the hand, breaking forth into a thousand anxious and apologetic expressions. We sat down and laughed over our last parting. He said he had been very much annoyed, and thoughtlessly said that which the next day he would have given worlds to recall. 'But,' said I, after assuring him of my forgiveness, 'how is it that I see you with a pipe in your hand?' 'My dear fellow,' he answered, 'I am now never without one. The regiment was ordered to India, and that's where I first learned to love the weed, and my wife to endure it. I'm in the Turkish Contingent now, with a staff appointment, and a house at Renkioi. Come over there as soon as you're well enough,



DOING THE ORIENTAL.—(A SKETCH AT ISTENIA.)



WOUNDED OFFICERS ON BOARD THE WALMER CASTLE.—(A SKETCH BY JULIAN FORSTER.)

and stop with us. You shall smoke as much as you like, and, by the way, you'll see Lucy, my sister-in-law, you know. She's out here now, married to an army surgeon, who is suffered to consume more claret than any other three men in the service."

WOUNDED OFFICERS IN THE WALMER CASTLE.

DURING the past year, while our enterprising artist, Mr. Julian Portch, was stopping on board the *Walmer Castle* transport-ship in Balaklava harbour, he frequently came in contact with parties of officers who had been wounded at the front, and who were accommodated in the different transport vessels lying at anchor until a ship was got ready to convey them to the hospital at Scutari. One day, he remarks, on going outside the cuddy door, he was much struck with the appearance of a group that presented itself, and on suggesting to the gentlemen who composed it, his desire to transfer them just as they were to his sketch-book, he found them nothing loath, and the result was the very interesting picture which we have engraved, p. 180. Their stay on board the *Walmer Castle* was, of course, but very temporary. A few days afterwards found them on their way to Scutari, to receive that attention and care in the military hospital there which their wounds and disabled condition rendered requisite.

A METAMORPHOSED ORIENTAL.

A FEW months since, a strange-looking biped—one of those miserable Orientals who had out-lived the hardship of a Crimean winter, and had escaped the dangers of camp fevers—made his way from Balaklava to Constantinople, and was to be seen wandering through the lanes and thoroughfares of that city, bearing an inscription on the breast of his outer garment, which consisted of an extemporaneous surcoat of basil, lined with old blanketing. He was an object of curiosity almost approaching to veneration, on the part of his brave fellow-countrymen. Some Crimean wag had presented it to him, no doubt with the assurance that the real value of the article consisted in the to him unknown characters recorded on its front. The poor fellow appeared to be as proud of displaying his novel-looking habiliment as our London exquisites are of advertising the latest idea of some inventive 'Schnieder,' and stood very patiently until the accompanying sketch was completed. The inscription ran thus:—

"This surcoat was made in two hours by Martin Blackson. It is *rudely* made, in order to show what a British soldier can do with half a blanket and two sheep-skins, and under the necessity of becoming his own tailor. The surcoat cost less than 400 shillings. Sleeves have been dispensed with in order to give free play to the muscles. It is good for infantry or cavalry,

sentinel or vidette, and may be put on over the ordinary clothing. In the trenches it would be found a most useful garment, and should it rain *heavens-hard*, the lining will always be dry."

THE CARLTON CLUB.

THE Carlton Club was originally built by Sir Robert Smirke, but has recently been enlarged, and in every respect improved, by his brother, Mr. Sydney Smirke. The portion recently built is exceedingly imposing. The Club-house now contains on the ground-floor a coffee-room, measuring ninety-two feet by thirty-seven feet, and twenty-one and a half feet high,

despite the objections of the fairest portion of creation to these establishments, the moral life of a West-End club-house is decidedly favourable. Gambling on a large scale is strictly prohibited; indeed, the good sense of the members ignores such a weakness.

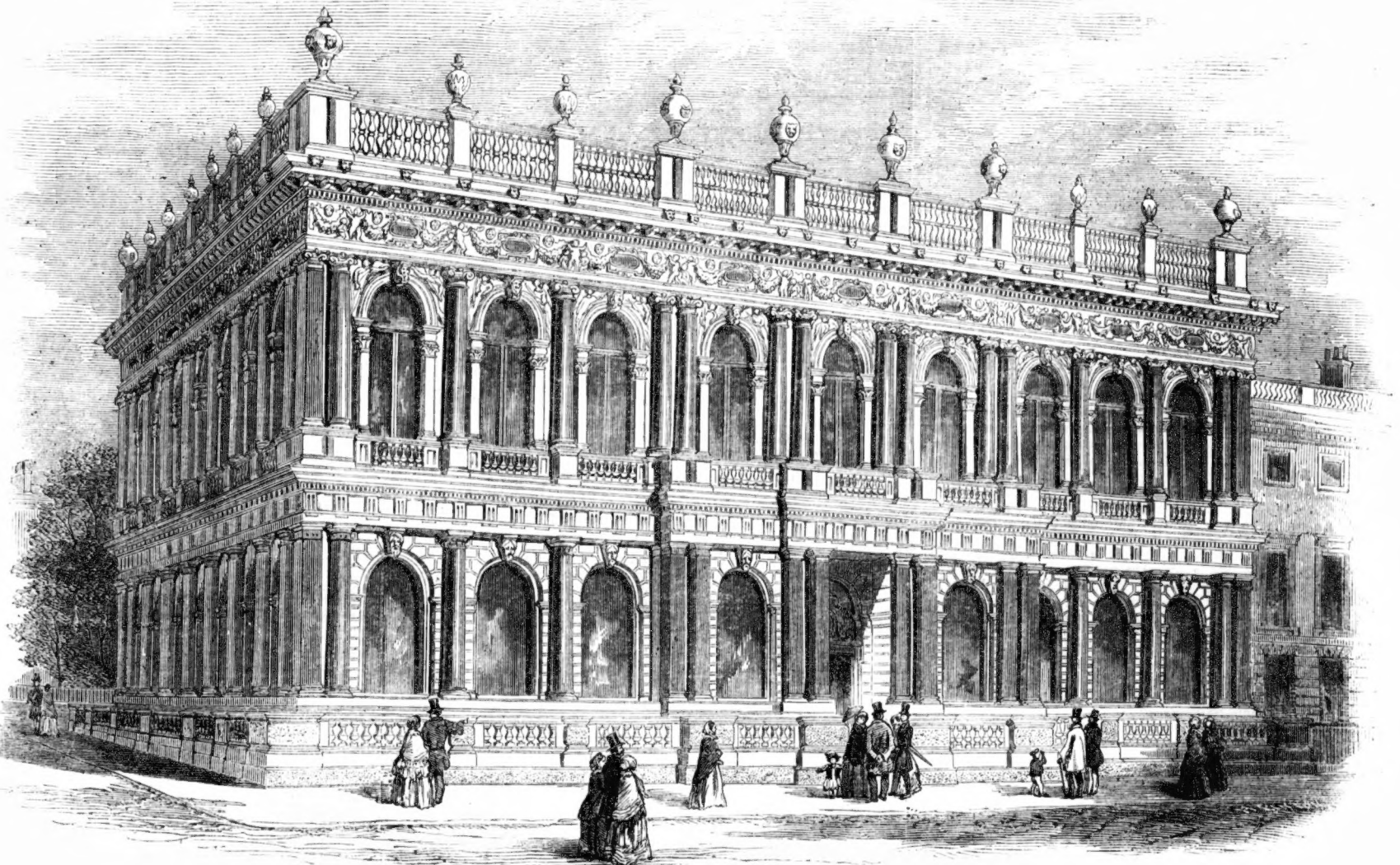
As to the origin of establishments such as the one represented in our engraving, they do not date farther back than about thirty-five years ago. The clubs of the last century, even those frequented by such celebrities as Addison, Steele, Johnson, and Goldsmith, were mere convivial assemblages although the "fun was fast and furious," and the conversation a sea of humour and the brightest scintillations of thought. Some of the regulations show the character of the frequenters and of the period. At the

and twenty-eight and a half feet high in the centre, where there is a glazed dome. On the first-floor are a billiard-room and a private, or house, dinner-room. Above are smoking-rooms and dormitories for servants. The exterior is built of Caen stone, except the shafts of the columns and pilasters, which are of polished Peterhead granite. The façade is of strictly Italian architecture, and consists of two orders: the lower order Doric, the upper Ionic; and each inter-columniation of both orders is occupied by an arched window, the keystones of which project so as to contribute towards the support of the entablature over them. The design is founded on the east front of the Library of St. Mark's, at Venice, by Sansovino and Scamozzi. The upper order is strictly after that building, except the sculpture, which differs materially from that of the Italian example. The lower order is also different, inasmuch as the Library there has an open arcade on the ground-floor, which was not admissible in the case of the Club-house. The introduction of polished granite in the exterior architecture of this building is a novelty due to the establishment of extensive machinery for cutting and polishing granite at the quarries near Aberdeen, without the aid of which machinery the expense would have utterly precluded the use of polished granite. The chief object of the architect in introducing here a coloured material was to compensate, in some measure, for the loss of strong light and shadow in an elevation facing the north.

The Carlton Club consists of 800 members, who each pay an entrance fee of £15 15s., and an annual subscription of £10 10s. It is the head-quarters of the high Conservative party, and numbers amongst its body the richest and noblest in the land. It is a realisation of the dream of a Sybarite; or, as it has been well observed, it is a sort of lay convent, rivalling the celebrated Abbey of Thelme with its agreeable rules of *Fais ce que voudras*, instead of monastic discipline and mortification. But order and discipline are rigidly observed; and,



A SKETCH AT CONSTANTINOPLE.



THE NEW CARLTON CLUB HOUSE, PALL MALL.

Essex Street Club, founded by Dr. Johnson, the rule was that each member (there were only twenty-four) should not spend less than sixpence per night, that each absentee should forfeit threepence, and each of the company was to make the waiter a present of a penny. All the old clubs were something of the same description as this. They consisted of knots who met at taverns, and the bottle and punchbowl were in remarkable requisition; hence the phrase, "reeling home from a club."

Who has not heard of the Carlton Club? From the time of the Reform Bill agitation inwards to the Repeal of the Corn Laws, the Carlton Club represented to the popular mind a vast mysterious power, inexhaustible in its resources, ubiquitous in its influences, like Jesuitism in the olden time, or Russia with her gold and diplomacy in our own day. If on the occasion of a general election, a gentlemanly stranger with "throne and altar," "the time-hallowed institutions of our ancestors," &c., on his lips, insulted the liberal electors of Little Pedlington by coming forward on conservative principles, it was "The Carlton" that had sent him—it was "The Carlton" that furnished him with the sovereigns, which somehow or another wonderfully increased, all of a sudden, the metallic circulation of Little Pedlington. If the dull old respectable county newspaper, dying of inanition despite its orthodoxy in politics and religion, suddenly appeared in new type, with a show of vigour in its leading articles, and a smart London correspondent, it was "The Carlton" that had furnished the funds for the metamorphosis, with an eye to repress the insidious encroachments of Liberalism. When the radical artisan after a night of declamation against the aristocracy at his beer-house, found, on returning to his home, a tract in the form of a dialogue between Mr. Jones, the carpenter, and his workman John, in which John was warned that if he read the "Weekly Dispatch" and threw up his hat for reform, society would be dissolved and himself and his family in the workhouse, it was "The Carlton" that had done it all. The general notion of "The Carlton" was, a little dim room, such as a superior band of coiners would work in,—with half-a-dozen Tory dukes and marquises sitting round a large cheque book, with a list of boroughs, counties, and influential or notable men before them, taking counsel how the genius of Liberty might be fascinated and vanquished, like Dancé of old, by the descent of a shower of gold!

THE INTERIOR OF THE CLUB.

Pause, good reader, and admire, as you walk westward along the south side of Pall Mall, those noble pillars of polished Peterhead granite and facing of Caen stone that form the façade of the Carlton Club,—then ascend with us the flight of steps that lead to the entrance-hall, and having gained admission in our company (for we are a member), proceed to test the vulgar notion of the Carlton in the light of reality. Here, to the right, in this fine coffee-room, which stretches the whole depth of the building, is there anything to terrify you, "ultra-Liberal" though you be? It is three or half-past three in the afternoon, and the room is pretty full of members of both Houses of Parliament, talking of what is to come on to-night in one or other House. The scene is not as striking as that presented at Simpson's in the Strand, or the Shades in Leicester-square, any afternoon of the week. There is the Marquis of Steyne, taking a basin of Palestine,—surely that bald, dignified-looking old personage cannot be the political Moloch that you took him for, although he has half-a-dozen boroughs in his pocket? Move along; every second person you crush against is a nobleman, who is ready, not to die (we have given up that nonsense), but to put down a thousand pounds for his principles. There, in the corner, is Disraeli, talking alone with the Tory "Whip," and settling the policy of the evening. His keen eye is interrogating the subordinate, and his pale face wears a look of triumph, as the other details the rumours that the ministerial supporters are rebelling. Ah! his grace of Buckingham! how shabby and broken-down the Plantagenet looks. The "elegant Thesiger!" A word with you, Sir Frederick; you have shut up Bob Lowe for ever and a day. Let us leave this crowd of common-place looking men, and go upstairs.

There is a circular walk on the first floor, from which we can look down on the groups in the entrance hall, but the scene is nothing to that presented by the Reform Club next door. The Carlton is not like the Reform. The members of the Carlton are men who have town houses, or who belong to clubs where the *cuisine* is better than at the Carlton, and who do not live here, like the political adventurers at the Reform. Your Irish Member, for instance, has a lodging at 15s. per week in the neighbourhood of the Reform; he breakfasts, lunches, dines, teas, sups, at the great Liberal club, which a passage of a yard or two divides from its rival the Carlton. But let us go into the library. It is but a poor affair, one must confess, compared with the noble room in the Reform. We in the Carlton do not, like the Reform, keep a librarian, as Mr. Packwood kept a poet. Our librarian is also groom of the chambers. We buy no new books, like the Reform. Those new volumes, novels and travels, French and English, are from Mr. Mitchell's, in Bond Street, and there is scarcely a person reading here. See! the groom of the chambers is searching anxiously for a work with a note in his hand, which he gazes at reverentially. You seem at fault, Mr. Groom of the Chambers. "Yes, sir, Lord Derby has written for a novel called 'Almack's,' and I can't find it." Lord Derby, since he was Prime Minister, never comes to the Carlton Club. If he wants a book (generally a novel) from the library, he always writes a note for it.

Hark! what is that noise that makes little Lord Tofts look up from Paul de Kock? It is the rattle of billiard-balls from the adjoining billiard-room, where a Scotch and an Irish member are preparing themselves for their silent votes to-night. This is a billiard-room where no smoking is allowed; if we go up another flight of stairs, we shall find one where no such restriction is imposed, and where the balls can scarcely be seen for smoke. But, first, let us glance in at the house dinner-room, where everything is handsomely laid for a snug little party at seven. Lord Steyne is to be at the expense of it. A clever young Liberal is wavering, and a little party has been got up to bring him round. The best wines in the cellars of the Carlton will be uncorked to-night, to achieve the victory, and give Mr. Disraeli another vote. *Excelsior!* Here we are in the smoking-room, where Lord Carabas is settling the representation of Rottenborough with Mr. Brown, the Copeck of the Carlton, and Mr. B. bows deferentially over his cigar, to the Noble Lord. A nice lightsome room, is it not? with a pleasant balcony on which to sit on summer evenings, and to think, over one's cigar, how Liberalism is driving the country to destruction.

THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB.

You want to know the history of the Carlton Club. Indeed! So deep a mystery and secrecy has enshrouded its operations that there are very few people in this establishment, not even that elderly gentleman who is scolding the waiter as if he were the parent of the club, could tell you a little of it. Look into Peter Cunningham's "Handbook of London." Peter has not a word to say about the origin or history of the Carlton, though he is great upon the granite pillars outside, and the resemblance to Sansovino's library, and so forth. Ask the "Builder," the correct, well-informed, respectable "Builder." The "Builder" will tell you that the Carlton Club was founded by the Duke of Wellington in 1831. No such thing. The Carlton Club was founded in 1828, the first year of his Premiership, by the Iron Duke, in association with the late Sir Robert Peel, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Jersey, the late Messrs. Goulburn and Herries, Billy Holmes (so long the Tory Whip-in.) and Bonham, afterwards of the Ordnance, of painful notoriety. The club opened house very quietly and unostentatiously in Charles Street, St. James's Square, the street made illustrious by the residence of Edmund Burke, and where the poet Crabbe waited upon the author of the "Reflections" with the letter which has become memorable in literary history. It was the time when Catholic emancipation was preparing, and the Great Duke wished to have some better organisation aloft than the Brunswick and Protestant Clubs, which even Lord Eldon could not stomach. The name of "Carlton" was chosen to designate the attachment of the members of the Club to the politics of his late Most Gracious Majesty George IV., whose residence, Carlton House, had recently been pulled down. Next year, it removed to the house in Pall Mall, opposite its present habitation, No. 26, now occupied by Messrs. Hart and Co., the army contractors. From 1829 to 1831 the Carlton Club was content with this modest residence, which has since become famous in the social history of London. Here, for many

years, Mr. Monckton Milnes was a lodger, and the giver of the celebrated breakfasts which made everybody of note acquainted with everybody else—where the lion lay down with the lamb, and the present Emperor of the French, M. Guizot, Cardinal Wiseman, the Bishop of St. David's, and Mr. Robert Owen, could all meet and chat genially at the prandial board of their gifted Catholic and tolerant host. The late Mr. Rogers's breakfasts were nothing to those of Mr. Milnes, who is one of the most amiable of men, and who, by the way, a few years ago, when Toryism was thought to be utterly untenable, left the Carlton for the Reform.

In 1831, with the rise of the Reform Bill agitation, the Carlton Club first became really and prominently active. It moved from what is now No. 26, Pall Mall, into Lord Kensington's house in Carlton Gardens, and commenced the Conservative organisation which has since made it so famous. It was the era of the Political Unions, at Birmingham and elsewhere, in the interest of reform or revolution, and the Carlton began to bring Tory organisation and money into play. As this sort of activity progressed, the Club felt the want of a larger "local habitation;" and in 1834, when the end of the Whig Ministry was evidently at hand, orders were given for the erection of a neat and unpretending mansion on the site of what is now the magnificent edifice of the Carlton Club. The job was entrusted to Sir Robert Smyrke, the architect of the new British Museum and the new Post Office; and never was the Carlton Club more active than in the days when its mansion was being prepared for it. It was to English Toryism what the Jacobins' Society had been to the revolutionists of France. The Conservative Associations formed throughout the country to aid Sir Robert Peel were affiliated to the Carlton, and both reaped the reward of their exertions in the triumphant restoration of Sir Robert Peel to power in 1841. It was in 1836 that the Carlton entered upon its tenancy of the plain substantial mansion in Pall Mall, which has since been expanded into what we see there now.

So strongly was the influence of the Carlton felt, that the Reform Club was projected in the first years of Lord Grey's administration; and not only so, but when Sir Robert Peel gave evidences of playing false to the Protectionist cause, Mr. Quentin Dick and his friends founded the Conservative in St. James's Street—a club large and fine enough to put the Carlton upon its mettle. In 1846, accordingly, an enlargement of the Carlton was decided on. Sir Robert Smyrke was on the eye of retiring; so his brother, Mr. Sydney Smyrke, was called in, and to him we owe the magnificent façade of the present Carlton. The enlargement, it is worthy of remark, sucked up the auction-rooms of Mr. Evans, the noted book-auctioneer, and on whose arrival in any company the cry is unanimously raised, "This is the original of Dickens's Pickwick," so strong is the resemblance which he bears to the pictorial representations of the first of Boz's creations. In 1854, it was settled that the whole building should be taken down, and rebuilt on the model of Mr. Smyrke's enlargement of 1846. And now the Carlton Club owns a residence, externally at least, more magnificent than any other similar association in the great metropolis.

But 1846, which saw Mr. Smyrke's enlargement, dealt a death-blow to the political greatness of the Carlton, in the announcement of Sir Robert Peel's intention to repeal the corn-laws. Since then, the members have led a cat-and-dog life, the pure Tories frowning upon the Peelites. When the Aberdeen-Russell Ministry was formed, an attempt was made to insult Gladstone out of a club, which, in common decency, he should have followed the example of Mr. Milnes in quitting. The attempt was unsuccessful; but Gladstone seldom goes to the Carlton now, and the scene in which he appeared has been repeated more than once in the case of other Peelites—a party towards whom the present Duke of Buckingham has shown himself peculiarly offensive. Magnates like the Duke of Buccleuch, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Hardwicke, Lord Redesdale, and Lord Verulam, still figure as the trustees of the Carlton Club; but it has so dwindled, that its active management has fallen into the hands of such small fry as Sir H. Campbell, Mr. J. F. Laurie, Colonel Taylor, Sir W. Jolliffe, and Lord William Graham! Externally, the Carlton was never so magnificent as now; internally, it was never so stale, flat, unprofitable, and impotent!

A DUEL IN HAVANNAH.—A duel of a desperate character has taken place between Senors Villagos and Paredes, members of the Board of Directors of the Cienfuegos Railway Company. The quarrel arose out of some stringent observations made by the former, which Paredes took to himself. Paredes was known to be skilled in the use of both the pistol and sword, with neither of which weapons was Villagos acquainted. The latter accordingly proposed that they should fight with pistols, only one of which should be loaded, and that they should draw lots for the choice of this. Paredes refused to accede to the proposition, observing that he went out to hit his man, and did not choose to leave the matter to chance. Paredes, it should be added, is of large and powerful frame, and has been nicknamed "Attila" from his ferocious propensities. Villagos, although possessing plenty of nerve and pluck, has not a tithe of the strength of his opponent. The meeting took place on the Sunday, in a paddock adjoining the country seat of a friend at the Cerro. The weapon used was the broadsword. The immense strength of Paredes enabled him at the first cut to break down the guard of Villagos, and to cleave his skull nearly in twain. At the last accounts he was still living, but in a hopeless state.

ABOLITION OF DEATH PUNISHMENT FOR CHANGE OF RELIGION IN TURKEY.—In a letter, dated 18th February, received from the Rev. R. König, the Jewish missionary of the Free Church at Constantinople, the writer states that two days previously the Dutch Ambassador had informed him that the Turkish Government had actually passed a law which would allow Mahometans to profess Christianity without being liable to capital punishment. The law was to be published that day (18th). This was one of the fruits of the war.

THE NEW BISHOP OF CARLISLE.—The Hon. and Rev. M. Villiers, who has been elected by the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle to the bishopric of that diocese, in compliance with her Majesty's congé d'elire, will be consecrated in the course of a few days at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, the consecrating prelates being the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Chester, and the Bishop of Manchester. Dr. Villiers will not for the present have a seat in the House of Lords.

MORE FIRES IN LONDON.—On Tuesday morning, the extensive and well-known family mansion, termed Harley House, situate in the New Road, Marylebone, was discovered to be on fire, and excited the most intense sympathy throughout that fashionable neighbourhood. It appears that the mansion was rented by a foreign gentleman, and Francisco Lugiane De Murieta, and having died, his body has been lying in state at the mansion, in the mortuary chamber. This part of the premises was richly fitted up, a canopy was erected, and the chamber lined with black; a bier was placed in the same, whilst sundry large looking-glasses were also added to the decorations, and large wax candles were placed in the room to give due effect to the mournful scene. The funeral procession had hardly got out of sight on Tuesday, when the state-room was discovered to be on fire. The fire was soon extinguished, however, without inflicting serious injury on the property. On the same day a very destructive fire broke out in a large private residence, No. 18, Park Lane, Hyde Park. The damage done is great. A foul chimney is said to be the cause of the fire. On the same fatal Tuesday Mr. Drew, a cabinet-maker in St. Luke's, had his workshops, including the working tools, entirely destroyed by fire. Origin of the fire unknown.

LARGE SEIZURE OF ADULTERATED FLOUR.—At the Goole Petty Sessions on Saturday last, Messrs. Rhodes and Rockett, millers, carrying on an extensive business at Snaith and Goole, were charged with having a quantity of adulterated flour and meal on their premises. Superintendent Burke stated that on the 1st inst. he visited the defendants' premises, and on the millstone in the adjoining windmill he discovered a piece of white clay. In the flour mill he took samples of one of each of each of nine lots of flour and meal, in the whole 317 sacks. He submitted the samples to Mr. Wood and Mr. Dresser, analytical chemists, of Leeds; the former stated that he had only been able to analyse one lot, in which he found three quarters per cent. of alumina, which was equal to two per cent. of clay. More or less he discovered the presence of the same foreign substance in every lot except three. The Magistrate inflicted a fine of £40 and the costs, and ordered the sixteen sacks of adulterated flour found upon the premises to be sold for feeding swine, and the proceeds to be given to the Rector of Goole for distribution among the poor. The defendants strongly denied the charge. The fine and costs amounted to upwards of £40.

THE 124TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY was celebrated with great éclat at New York, on the 22nd of February.

THE FRENCH REPUBLICANS in New York celebrated the anniversary of the French Revolution on the 23rd ult., at a banquet.

MR. ROBERT KEATING will, it is probable, soon retire from the representation of Waterford.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

The Marquis of Breadalbane, as Lord Chamberlain, brought down the following answer of her Majesty to the address on the establishment of a gallery of national portraits.

TORTURE IN INDIA.

The Earl of Albemarle gave notice he should, after Easter, move resolutions on the question of the practice of torture in the Presidency of Madras.

REGISTRATION IN SCOTLAND.

Lord Kinnaird moved for a return of the number, weight, and cost of the books issued to parishes in Scotland in the year 1855 for the purposes of registration, and for a similar return of the expense of books and stationery for the same purpose in 1856.

The Mercantile Law Amendment Bill, and the Mercantile Law of Scotland Amendment Bill, were read a second time.

The Turpike Trusts Arrangement Bill was read a third time and passed; the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SHAVING ON SUNDAY.

Sir GEORGE GREY, in answer to a question, mentioned that no application had been made to him on the subject of the barber convicted and fined at Oxford, for shaving a man upon the Sabbath. It appears that the barbers of that town have a rule amongst themselves against shaving on the Sabbath, and that the prosecution was raised by the fraternity themselves.

NEW ROAD THROUGH ST. JAMES'S PARK.

Sir B. HALL brought up the report of the St. James's Park Committee, which was read in extenso at the table.

ENGLISH GRAVES IN THE CRIMEA.

Sir J. FERGUSON called the attention of the Government to the necessity of taking steps for obtaining a pledge from Russia to secure respect to the graves of British officers and soldiers in the Crimea when it should be evacuated by the Allied armies.

Lord PALMERSTON said the subject would not escape attention during the negotiations. He could not, he added, anticipate the slightest delicacy in obtaining from the Russian Government an assurance that the monuments recording the fall of our countrymen who sacrificed their lives in the Crimea, would receive that respect which was paid by all civilised nations.

Sir DE L. EVANS entertained no doubt that the Russian Government would willingly agree to any arrangement for securing this laudable object; and suggested that means be taken to secure the ground occupied by the monuments in perpetuity.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Upon the order of the day for going into committee of supply, Mr. BOWYER rose to propose the following resolutions:—"That the present state of the appellate jurisdiction in the last resort is not satisfactory; and that a permanent court of appeal ought to be constituted, presided over by permanent judges of appeal."

This motion, not being seconded, fell to the ground.

SUPPLY.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of supply, and the following votes were taken:—£420,000 to defray the expenses of the civil establishments in the United Kingdom and abroad; £450,000 on account, for the wages of artificers, labourers, and others employed in the civil establishments at home and abroad; £4,000,000 for the supply of clothing, barrack furniture, fuel, &c., for the army; £2,500,000 for Ordnance stores for land and sea service; £1,794,469 to defray the expenses of works, buildings, and repairs at home and abroad.

VACCINATION.

Mr. COWPER obtained leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to vaccination.

The following bills were read a third time, and passed:—Out-pensioners (Greenwich and Chelsea) Bill, Mutiny Bill, and Consolidated Fund (£26,000,000) Bill, and the House adjourned at one o'clock.

MONDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LEASES AND SALES OF SETTLED ESTATES BILL.

Lord ST. LEONARDS called attention to the steps taken by the present Government to amend the law and its administration. He commented on the various bills and plans recently laid before Parliament for the reform of the law in the several branches, criticising especially the plan for transferring the functions of the Encumbered Estates Court to the Irish Court of Chancery.

The bill, after a few remarks by the Lord Chancellor, went through committee, and their Lordships adjourned at seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to a suggestion from Sir De Lacy Evans, put the House in possession of the words of the telegraphic message sent to General Simpson, in reference to Mr. Dowbiggin, by Lord Pannure (his uncle). The message was,—"I recommend young Dowbiggin to your attention, if he is fit, and you have a vacancy." The second was from General Simpson,—"In the trenches last night the Russians made a strong attack to regain the cemetery, but we were prepared, and Captain Dowbiggin and his party behaved admirably."

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Sir Frederick Thesiger, mentioned that it was intended to amend Mr. Lowe's motion for a select committee to inquire into the question of local dues, so as to meet the views of all parties.

SIR G. GREY'S POLICE BILL.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of the Police (Counties and Boroughs) Bill. From the multitude of facts relating to the local provision for the police force, he argued that the intervention of the Legislature was urgently required to secure an effectual provision for life and property; and after tracing the operation and indicating the principle of the bill, submitted that no undue invasion was contemplated upon the system of local self-government. Some modification he stated had been made in the measure since its first introduction. Among others, the compulsory powers assigned to the Home Secretary under the bill were not to be made applicable to municipal boroughs.

Mr. C. FORSTER (Walsall) moved, as an amendment, that the second reading should be deferred for six months. The changes in the measure which the Home Secretary had described, had, he said, mitigated the objectionable characteristics of the measure, but did not disarm his opposition to it.

Captain SCOBELL seconded the amendment, remarking upon the dangerous extensive powers which it would throw into the hands of the Government.

Sir G. PEACHELL pointed out some local evils and injustices, which, as he contended, the measure would occasion. He complained of the constant efforts which successive Governments had made to invade the rights of local administration, and which had been baffled only by incessant vigilance.

Mr. PACKMAN found in the Bill a useful provision for ensuring an adequate police force in every borough, and denied the assertion that it retrenched the just privileges of municipal corporations, or other local authorities.

Sir J. WALMSLEY declared that the boroughs did not object to the provision of a police force, but to the compulsory powers lodged in the hands of the Home Secretary. Local self-government was, he contended, a principle which ought to be encouraged rather than circumscribed.

Mr. W. J. FOX recommended the withdrawal of the Bill, for the purpose of introducing another relating exclusively to the extension and management of the county constabulary. In the boroughs, he urged, the principle of self-government was regularly at work, and all the means existed for supplying and organising an adequate police force without requiring the interference of the Home Secretary. For ordinary purposes, a sufficient force already existed in all but a few of the large manufacturing towns; and for extraordinary occasions, such as sometimes arose during contested elections or strikes among the operatives, no attainable strength of the constabulary would suffice to keep the peace.

Mr. HENLEY insisted that the Bill went much beyond the recommendation of the select committee of 1853, on whose report it was professedly founded. From a comparison of facts, scattered over many years and counties, he inferred that the condition of districts where there was no rural police was rather better than that of other districts in which the force had been established, with respect to the visible amount of crime.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE believed that the changes to be effected by the Bill had been much exaggerated. The only alteration contemplated, even in the counties, amounted to little more than the general establishment of a rural police, under the inspection of the Government, in return for which, part of the expense was to be defrayed from the public exchequer.

After a lengthened discussion, in which several members took part, the House divided, when there appeared, for the motion, 259; for the amendment, 106—majority, 153. The Bill was then read a second time.

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

Mr. M. GIBSON requested some more definite information touching the arrangement which had been effected at an earlier hour of the evening's sitting with regard to the subject of local dues on shipping.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that the terms of the motion for referring the question to a select committee had been adapted to the amendment proposed by Sir F. Thesiger.

Mr. DISRAELI explained the motives on which that amendment had been framed. In its original form the motion for reference instructed the committee to inquire into the means of carrying out the report of the commissioners, and, as this embodied the chief objection to the scheme, namely, the confiscation of corporate property, the amended version was proposed, by which the whole subject

would be placed for investigation before the select committee, and he rejoiced that the Government had consented to adopt this modification. The subject then dropped, and the report was brought up and agreed to.

TRIAL OF OFFENCES BILL.

The Trial of Offences Bill went through committee, after some discussion respecting the extent of the powers of removing indictments which should be entrusted to the judges of the Queen's Bench.

PARTNERSHIP AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. LOWE withdrew the Partnership Amendment Bill, on account of some technical informality, for the purpose of introducing a new measure on the subject.

The House adjourned at 20 minutes past two.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

DEFECTIVE MORTARS.

The Earl of DERRY inquired whether there was foundation for a statement respecting the imperfections in certain iron mortars supplied by a contracting firm to the Government, which flaws had been dexterously concealed so as to escape the vigilance of the official inspectors.

Lord PANMURE admitted the truth of the allegation, and stated that the firm in question (Messrs. Grissell, of Regent's Canal Iron Works) had been erased from the list of the department, and would never be allowed to supply articles to Government account again. It was also still under consideration whether legal proceedings should not be taken against them.

The Agricultural Statistics Bill was read a second time after a brief discussion. The Mutiny Bills were also read a second time, on the motion of Lord PANMURE, as was the Consolidated Fund (£26,000,000) Bill, on the motion of the Duke of Argyll.

Their Lordships then adjourned at five minutes past seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock, when, forty members not being present, the House immediately adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12.

REFORMATORY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Mr. DUNLOP moved the second reading of this bill.

Mr. MARTINEAU complained that no provision was made for the religious education of Catholic children, except this—that they were brought up by Presbyterians in hatred of their own creed, by men who openly and boldly avowed that they would not be satisfied until Popery was exterminated from the land.

Mr. DUNLOP supported the bill.

Mr. G. GREY did not think there was any ground to complain of the bill with regard to Roman Catholics or of any other religious denomination.

Mr. ADDERLEY supported, and Mr. KENNEDY objected to the bill.

Mr. ADAM BLACK gave an account of the working of the schools in Edinburgh, which were found to act most beneficially.

After some further discussion, the bill was read a second time.

The Municipal Reform (Scotland) Bill was read a brief discussion, withdrawn.

The Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill was read a second time; but the second reading of the Vaccination Bill was postponed till after the recess.

A bill for the better Prevention and Punishment of aggravated Assaults on Women and Children was brought in and read a first time, when the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to four o'clock.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Earl ST. GERMAN brought in a bill to legalise marriage between a widower and his deceased wife's sister, which was read a first time.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Lord BROUGHAM resumed the discussion upon judicial statistics, offering additional suggestions towards carrying out his resolutions.

EDUCATION.

Earl GRANVILLE stated that the Government would not for the present press its Education Bill, as it was desirable to afford time for the consideration of the resolutions recently moved by Lord J. Russell on the subject.

The Mutiny Bills, and some others, were read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. BAYLY, whether any deliberations would take place touching the affairs of Italy, and to Mr. DISRAELI, whether Prussia had been invited, said that it was resolved when the Conference first opened that nothing should be known of their proceedings except by the results.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

Sir C. NAPIER moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operations of the Baltic fleet in the years 1854 and 1855. After briefly alluding to the circumstances of his appointment, he entered into the correspondence between the Admiralty and himself when he arrived at the scene of operations, connecting the letters by a narrative of his proceedings and of the trials of the navigation in the Gulf of Finland. Some of the letters, he admitted, were marked "private," but he justified the reading of them, as they related to matters connected with the public service, and were necessary for his defence. He described the fortifications and approaches of Cronstadt as most formidable, and the instructions he received with reference to this fortress and to Swaborg as embarrassing. He then gave the details of the joint attack upon Bomarsund, assigning reasons why this attack was delayed until the arrival of the French troops. Up to this time, he observed, every act performed by him had been approved by the Admiralty. He then discussed the expediency of an attack on Swaborg, and insisted that a commotion having been got up in the country, Sir James had turned round to see whom he could blame, and had fixed upon him as a scapegoat. He expatiated on this part of the subject, and on the plans he had submitted to the Admiralty for the attack of Swaborg, criticising the comments made by the Board, whom he accused of endeavouring to goad him on to an undertaking which would have been an act of pure insanity, namely, the attack on Swaborg and Helsingfors with great ships only, especially at that late season of the year. It appeared to him that Sir J. Graham was never serious in the Russian war. Had the Czar been the first Lord he could not have taken a better course to secure the destruction of our fleet. He (Sir C. Napier) had served at sea 56 years, under four Sovereigns, and he always thought he had done his duty fairly and justly. He had commanded fleets and armies, "was ready, aye ready," to serve by sea or land, had done his duty in a slap-dash manner, and the only slur that was thrown upon him was by the late first Lord of the Admiralty. A commission had been appointed to inquire into the conduct of two noblemen whose characters had been impugned by two commissioners. He, too, had a right to expect that proper inquiry would be instituted. If he had not done what was right, he ought to be punished, and the only way that could be ascertained was by the appointment of a committee.

Admiral WALCOTT seconded the motion, although he believed that both the Admiralty of 1854 and Sir C. Napier were equally blameable.

Sir C. WOOD resisted the motion as mischievous and unprecedented.

Sir J. GRAHAM rejoiced to meet Admiral Napier face to face and reply to charges so long promulgated, and charged Admiral Napier with making unwarrantable use of official correspondence, public and private, observing that the documents were not merely quoted in the speech just delivered, but had been long before shown to miscellaneous acquaintances, and left for weeks together in the hands of the editor of a newspaper. On one charge, that the Admiralty were not sincere in wishing to cripple Russia, he was ready to join issue before any tribunal, and read many letters to show that he had acted and written with perfect consistency and candour. He retorted the accusation of insincerity upon Sir C. Napier. The reason why the necessary appliances for bombarding Swaborg were not furnished during the summer of 1854 was because that place had not been closely reconnoitred by Sir C. Napier before the 23rd of September.

After some further discussion, Sir C. Napier withdrew his motion; and the House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

PRUSSIA'S ADMISSION TO THE CONFERENCES.

PRUSSIA has been invited to take part in the Conference. M. Mantouffier was to set out from Berlin for Paris yesterday (14th), and M. de Hatzfeld, Prussian Minister at Paris, will be the second Plenipotentiary.

THE LOSS OF THE POLYPHEMUS.—At the close of the Court martial held on Tuesday last, at Portsmouth, on the loss of the Polyphemus, the Court acquitted the crew and officers of the ship, and with regard to Commander Warren, found—"That the loss of the steam-sloop Polyphemus, is to be ascribed mainly to the irregularities of the currents on the coast of Jutland, where she was wrecked; but, while the Court consider there is evidence of much attention having been paid by the Commander, and no want of general vigilance was imputable to him, it is nevertheless the opinion of the Court that blame is attachable to the said Commander Frederick Pelham Warren, in not having slackened the speed of the vessel to obtain accurate soundings, especially when running in thick weather, in the neighbourhood of land where the currents are known to be irregular. The Court considers that every exertion was used after the wreck, and, upon consideration of all the circumstances of the case, does adjudge the said Commander Frederick Pelham Warren to be reprimanded for his neglect on the occasion." Commander Warren is a son of the late Admiral Warren, of Cosham, near Portsmouth, and brother of Captain R. L. Warren, of her Majesty's ship Cressy, 80, at Spithead.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. X.

THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE HOUSE.

Who is the most powerful member of the House of Commons? Lord Palmerston? No! Mr. Disraeli? By no means. The most powerful member of the House is unquestionably the Right Hon. William Goodenough Hayter, member for Wells, and "Whipper-in" for Government. Palmerston and Disraeli make long speeches. Mr. Hayter flourishes figuratively a long and formidable whip—and the whip is very much more effective than the most eloquent harangues. A good speech may possibly change the mind of some two or three members during a debate, but Mr. Hayter, by his more effective logic, brings up scores of sluggish members to the division. The House of Commons is the most talkative assembly in the world; but victories there are not achieved by talk. Does the reader doubt this? Let him, then, note the fact that, on an average, not more than one-half of the members whose names appear on the division-list ever hear the debate. Just as at an election, success does not, as old electioneers well know, depend upon pot-house orations, or long addresses, but upon organisation, the activity of the Committee and the scouts. So Ministerial measures are seldom carried by oratory, but by the zeal, foresight, and energy of the "Whip."

On the occasion of the late Church-rate debate we met in the lobby a Dissenting agitator against this obnoxious impost. "Well," said we, "how goes the war? Shall you win or lose?" "Doubtful!" was the reply. But we soon saw that it was not doubtful, for, after we had been in the lobby a short time, we observed some significant movement, which, to a practised eye, was decisive. The fact was, that Government had determined to support the measure, and Messrs. Hayter and Co. were busy whipping for a division. And the result proved the correctness of our conclusions, for the bill was carried through the second reading by a majority of 43. Albeit, some 40 or 50 Church-rate opponents were away.

INFLUENCE OF GOVERNMENT.

The influence of Government is not understood generally out of the House. It is commonly thought that it is confined to some 30 or 40 members of the Government. But this is a mistake. It extends to a far wider circle, and penetrates, possibly, into quarters little suspected by mere readers of the debates. For instance, not only all those who are in, but all who have relations and connexions in, and all who are hoping to get in, feel this subtle and invisible power. And then there are all who have received favours from the Government for themselves, relatives, or constituents, or who are seeking for them. This class we may set down as very large, when we consider that some thousands of places are annually disposed of, and most of them through the solicitation of members. And then, further, there are not a few staunch adherents of the Government, who, though they ask no favours, steadily support it through thick and thin, asking no questions for conscience sake; and some of them caring little about debates. They are Whigs—always have been—and their fathers before them, and will, of course, support the Whigs. Now all these various classes and people are as well known to Mr. Hayter as the huntsman knows the qualities and characteristics of his horses and hounds. And when occasion requires this knowledge is more available. And such persuasions, hints, suggestions, and reminders are brought to bear as long experience and extensive knowledge suggest as most likely to be effective. And then it must be remembered that apart from this, the very existence of an organisation like that of the "Whip," with its chief clerks and scouts, paid directly or indirectly, keeping an accurate register of absent members and their whereabouts, with full power to ply, on pressing occasions, all the facilities of post-office and telegraph, steam, rail, and cabs, must give the Government an enormous advantage. Indeed, in old Borough-mongering times, the position of a Government was almost impregnable, and it took years, as is well known, to overthrow a ministry fairly in position. But since the Reform Bill, the House has undergone a great change, by the introduction of a number of members, whom not all the skill and science of the "Whip" can bring within the range of the lash. They are called Independent Members, or, as was once wittily said, "Members whom nobody can depend upon." It is true their number is not large, but when divisions run close, a small band of men may turn the scale, and render ineffective all the skill and labour of the "Whip;" these are the men who sit below the gangway. Their disposition is generally to support the Government, but when Government attempts anything flagrantly opposed to their views, they quietly walk out with its enemies. These Independent Members are thorns in the sides of the "Whip." If he could but bring them under his power, he would be all-powerful.

THE POLICE BILL AND "KICKING MARES."

On Thursday night, both Houses and Lobby were unusually full. The occasion was the second reading of Sir George Grey's Police Bill, a measure which has greatly excited the wrath and patriotism of our borough populations, because it rather interferes with the snug, comfortable little governments of provincial Mayors and Corporations; indeed, lately there has been a whole host of recalcitrant mayors ("kicking mares," as a witty Member phrased it), Aldermen, Councillors, and Town Clerks, in London, to watch the progress of this measure, "so destructive of local government, municipal privileges and rights, and so directly tending to centralisation, police espionage, despotism," &c., &c. And on Monday night, these provincial magnates were in the lobby in great strength, and some of them were very wrathful because they could not get a place below the bar. Indeed, one worshipful mayor actually strode off whilst his Member was gone to gain permission from the Speaker, in high dudgeon that such formalities should be deemed necessary before he could enter the House. Nor had these gentlemen the smallest doubt that they should defeat the Bill. The Bill, however, to their astonishment, was carried by no less a majority than 153. Mayors, Aldermen, Councillors, and Town Clerks, are important men in their own localities; but they are no match for Parliamentary "Whips," and in this case, both sides "whipped" for the Government, or, at all events, there was no "whipping" against it.

"NO HOUSE."

Tuesday is not a Government night—therefore, on Tuesday, it is not the interest of the Government to make a house. And if any motion is down upon the paper not palatable, it is not uncommon for the Government "Whips" to prevent, if possible, the House being made. On last Tuesday's notices there were several motions which could only lead to columns of dreary talk, with no useful result; and therefore it was that we had "no house." On entering the lobby, it was easy to perceive what was "up." It was ten minutes to four o'clock by the dial. The Speaker was at prayers. Clusters of members were chatting together, but there were none waiting against the door. The "Whips" were busy, stopping and whispering in the ear of every member that arrived; and members of the Government were despatched to the different entrances to make all right there. The Speaker finished prayers at five minutes to four, but still nobody moved. At last the hand points to four. The Speaker mounts the platform, and counts the members. There are only 33. He glides out of the House. The doorkeeper rings his bell, and shouts "Who goes home?" And there is joy in Downing Street, and in the offices of the morning papers. We can fancy Lord Palmerston not a little pleased, when, just as he was about to leave home, fully expecting to have to listen two mortal hours to Wyse, on consular appointments, and to speak two hours in reply—besides watching sundry other matters and things until the small hours in the morning—a messenger arrives with the intelligence—"no House, my Lord."

SERGEANT BRODIE AND COLONEL DUNNE.—Colonel Dunne having, in the House of Commons, condemned the appointment of Sergeant Brodie as Inspector of Saddlery at Weedon Barracks, the much-oppressed sergeant has written a spirited letter, in which he says—"Being anxious to learn Colonel Dunne's reasons for his extraordinary conduct in this matter, I immediately came up from Weedon, and waited upon him, and told him that his statement was cruel and untrue, as it tended to deprive me of the means of subsistence for my family. I also asked him what he knew of me (as I had never served under him) to cause him to put forth such a statement. The only reply he made was, 'You had no business to interfere with officers in a duel.' Now, as this is the only reason Colonel Dunne can advance for supposing me incompetent for the post of Inspector-foreman of Saddlery, I am quite content to leave the public to form its own opinion of the merits of the case, merely adding that I have in my possession testimonials from general officers, colonels, captains, lieutenants, cornets, and also from wholesale saddlers' ironmongers, all giving me the highest character, and testifying to my thorough acquaintance with saddlery."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1856.

TALK OF THE WEEK.

WE have devoted our first article to the story of Kars, which has only lately been within reach of the public, but which will assuredly take rank with the Crimean doings of the winter of 1854. The Administrative Reformers have announced a meeting on the matter. But from this we expect nothing. They have failed to attract to their Association men of either the weight or the wit needful to do such work as they undertake. A batch of second-rate mediocrities angry, is only ludicrous. We do not know that our readers care what these men think on the subject; and sure we are, that a little earnest thought bestowed on the facts, at home—with a view to connecting the facts with certain moral characteristics of the age, in which we all share as much as the Ministers—would do a plain honest man more good than hearing Mr. MORLEY at the London Tavern. It is probable that the Kars revelations will precipitate the downward progress of the present Ministry—which the great skill, talent, and luck of PALMERSTON has already held together for a wonderfully long time. But the Peace Question will have precedence of everything. All appears to go on quietly at the Conference, and there is now an almost unanimous feeling that the peace is safe.

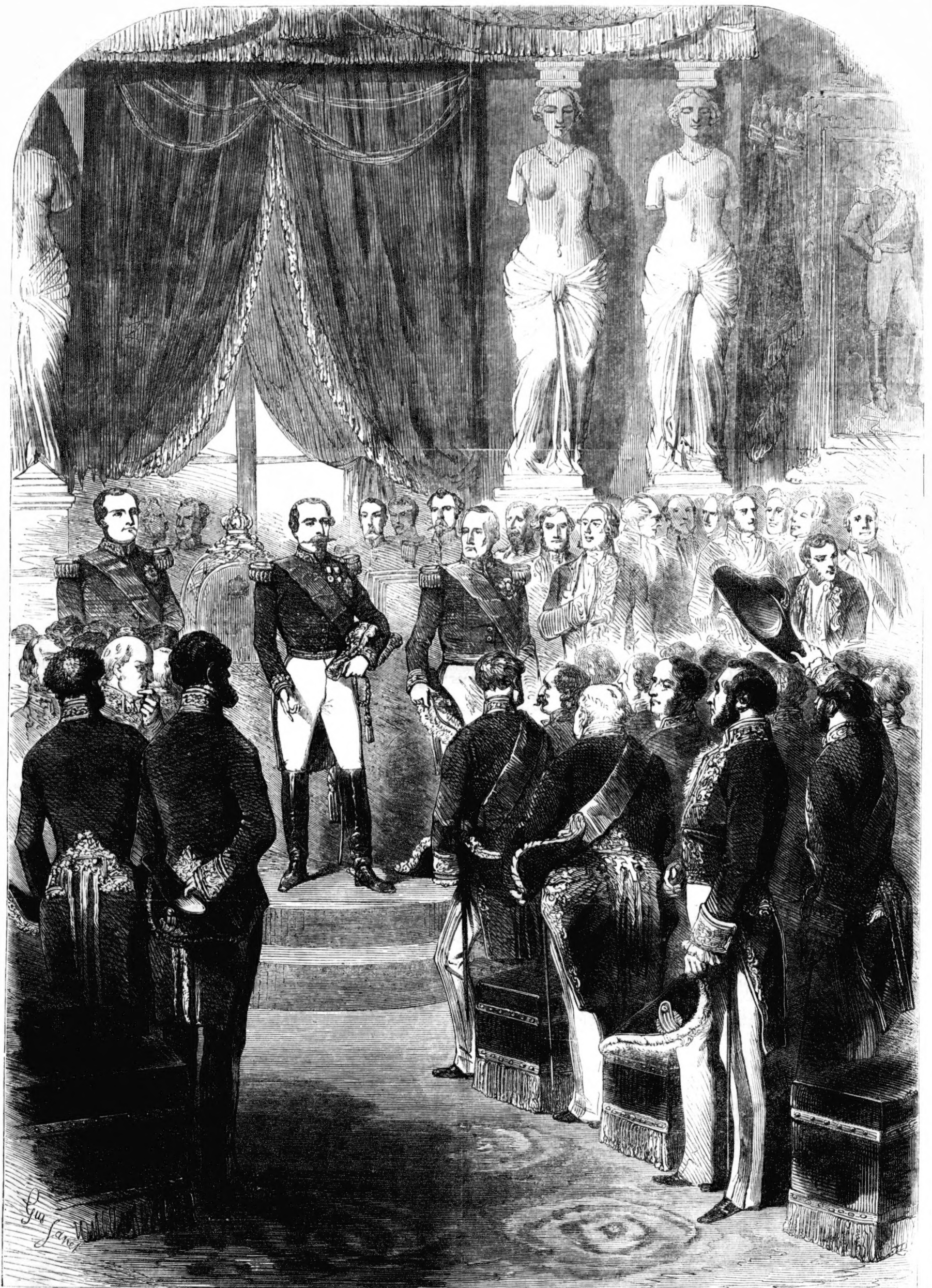
The great coming event in Paris, as interesting almost as the peace, is the confinement of the EMPRESS—and we must be prepared for a burst of enthusiasm if the child should be a boy. For our own parts, we have never been wanting in any decent respect to our Ally, and we are inclined to accept any dynasty rather than a succession of futile republics and street fights. But we shall take the news very quietly—shall laugh, if need be, at the raptures of the *Morning Post*—and shall persist in thinking the dignity of England decidedly compromised by the lavish adulation of NAPOLEON now in fashion. However, as we cannot anticipate (as some bold papers probably would) the certainty of a boy's being born while our impression is going forward, we shall postpone some remarks on the prospects of the dynasty till the occasion properly presents itself.

The American mails bring news, on the whole, of a pacific character. There had been a debate on the 25th in the Senate about the British-American difficulties, in which a leading member frankly expressed his opinion that the breach of the enlistment laws had been sufficiently apologised for. The latest news from England had caused no commotion in money circles. And even though Mr. CRAMPTON should have been dismissed—as is not impossible from some accounts—that event need not necessarily cause a war. Diplomatic relations would be broken off, indeed, but hostilities would by no means be inevitable, while the circumstance would be sufficiently decisive to prompt an immediate settlement. With regard to the enlistment matter, we have said repeatedly that our Government was entirely in the wrong. Had it acknowledged the matter more openly long ago, it would have been better than that we should have this prolonged irritation. There seems a difficulty in agreeing who shall arbitrate in the Central American point. The Yankees were for the Emperor NICHOLAS—but he has been himself arbitrated on some time—and we are still at war with his successor. Whom, then, will they have? Not, we suppose, NAPOLEON, because he is our ally. Meanwhile, we are told that WALKER has "annexed" the Mosquito territory to Nicaragua in the interval. Other filibustering exploits are talked of which might be dangerous, but we have faith in Yankee prudence and common sense, and think war as little probable as we think it desirable.

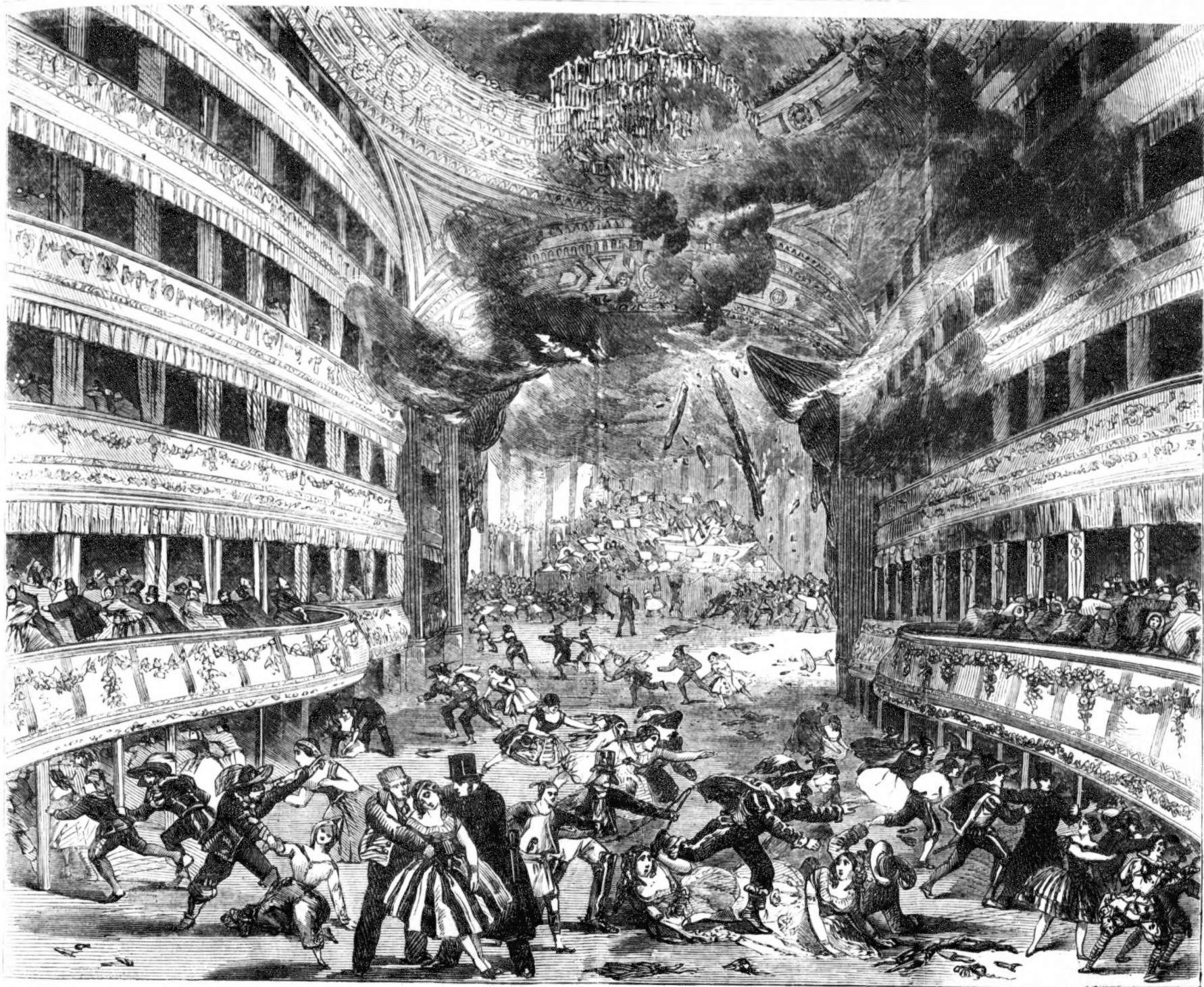
The Police Bill which Government carried—somewhat modified—by a majority of 153, excited more attention than the mere title would seem to justify. The old war-cry of local self-government was raised against the old foe "centralisation." Several interests were huddled together on the same side, which have nothing in common at other times—old-fashioned men, who love the antique Dogberry, being in harmony with W. J. Fox, who dreads a police capable of being employed as spies. But men equally various were on the other side, in the great common cause of good sense and protection of property. The old rural constables, in fact, are out of date. They cannot do their work. Gangs haunt the counties which still cherish them, and these counties pay for their love of beadles by having their houses broken open or their farmyards robbed. It is not that self-government is not an admirable thing, but that *de facto* it cannot now be attained. In old times, the lord-lieutenant and gentry governed a county as if it were a kingdom; but railways take away the local governors while they bring in distant thieves. London, which swallows up so many things, and rubs out the local colour of places, must supply as well as remove; and it is as natural that the police department of government should be directed from London as any other part of government. The present bill will take away from counties the option of adopting the County Constabulary Act, and make it obligatory on them to adopt it. It will appoint inspectors to inquire into the discipline of the police, both in counties and boroughs. The clauses sacrificed related to extra duties on the part of the police, which are now, however, to be left in the hands of the local authorities—and to the accoutrements, &c., of borough police, also still left for local regulation. Quite enough, we think, has been conceded to a natural and unreasonable conservation of local powers. The police will be an English body still, in point of having that variety of local character which distinguishes all our institutions from those of countries divided mathematically, and under the influence of mere government "tapery." But we cannot help remarking, that in this, as in other matters, the extreme jealousy of "centralisation" is one cause of our administration's being bad.

THE OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

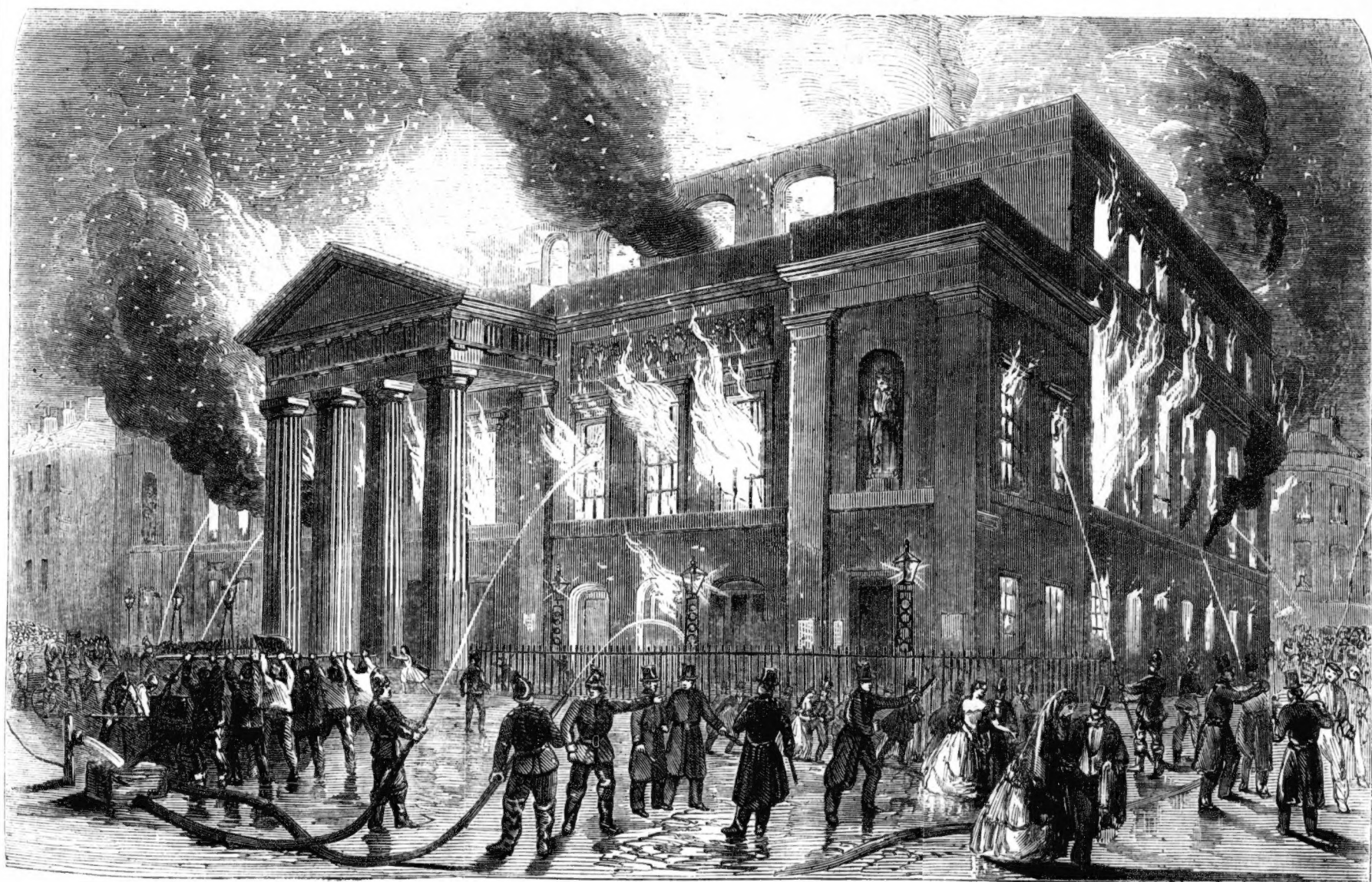
THE Legislative Session was opened on Monday, the 3rd inst., in the Salle des Maréchaux, at the Tuilleries, with extraordinary pomp, by the Emperor in person. As represented in the engraving on the next page, the throne was placed at the bottom of the richly-decorated hall, between the large windows opening into the garden. To the right was a chair of state for Prince Jerome, and on the left another for Prince Napoleon. But it is unnecessary to enter into details; our illustration speaks for itself.



THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON III. OPENING THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, MARCH 3, 1856.—(DRAWN BY GUSTAVE JANET.)



THE FIRST ALARM OF FIRE AT THE CLOSE OF THE BAL MASQUE AT COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.



THE DESTRUCTION OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 5, 1856.

BRAIDWOOD IN BOW STREET.

It is during the month of May, last year, my cousin Julia, who is always brought up from Yorkshire by her mother, when that venerable but misguided lady comes to town to attend the religious meetings at Exeter Hall, to get her teeth looked to, and to invest in a new "front" at Truefitt's—if, at that period, I say, my cousin Julia had asked me to give her an idea of that dreadfully wicked, worldly place, the Royal Italian Opera, what would have been my reply? Probably I should have discoursed to her about the noble portico, and the convenient entrance, about the splendid flight of stairs, and the handsome columns on either side, about the lofty reception rooms through which one passed, and about the snug, cosy little pit box, into which it was generally my good fortune to be issued. I should have told her of the deep crimson decorations, of the fine chandelier, of the universal blaze of light, of the air of aristocracy that was perceptible. I should have talked of her Majesty, in her box; of noted ladies (Cames whose drawing-room costumes are faithfully chronicled in the "Morning Post") sitting in the grand tier; of the stalls, filled with gentlemen, oiled, curled, white neckcloths, solemn, inane, every third one of whom might have sat for the portrait of one of Mr. Leech's "swells"; of the pit, closely packed with "genteel" young men, bald-headed old gentlemen, theatrical critics, in seedy clothes, and dowdy ladies, the old ones in turbans, the young ones in wreaths. I should have mentioned the dingy foreigners, who are all musical, and all on the free list, who stand round the back of the pit, applauding all the best *morceaux* of the opera, beating time with heads and feet, and shrinking from a false note as from a hot iron; the librarians scuttling about from side to side, reckoning up their gains, and bowing obsequiously to such of their patrons as they chance to come across; the "gentlemen of the press" making notes on the fly-leaves of their *libretti*. I should have enlarged on Grisi and Mario, on their powers of acting and singing, on their quarrels and terms; on Costa, and his position, and his row with Lumley, and his musical skill; on Beverley, and his painting; on Harris, and his grouping; on Gye, and his general unpleasantness. But, if the said Julia were now to put to me the afore-mentioned question, my answer would, indeed, be different. I should describe to her four gray semi-blackened walls, enclosing a heap of loose bricks, blistered plaster, and incandescent embers. Along one of these walls still stand a few little pillars, and in every circle and crevice where woodwork still remains, a lambent flame is fitfully struggling against the humid atmosphere with which it is surrounded. There is no box for her Majesty now, no grand tier, no stalls, no pit. The oiled and curled gentlemen do not care particularly about it, for Mitchell and Sams sell stalls for Lumley as well as Gye, and will give an equal amount of tick for one house as the other. Old people generally hope that the Opera will now be taken back to the "King's Theatre," its legitimate abode; the newspaper critics are rather sorry on the whole, for Bow Street was convenient to the printing offices; the foreigners have not come over just yet, and when they do, so long as they are on the free list, they won't care; and as for the *artistes* of all descriptions, rumour says Mr. Gye means to keep them together, and provide some refuge for the "lyric drama," so that they won't suffer.

Furthermore, if Julia, with that ardent thirst for knowledge with which I have found it necessary to imbue her, were to inquire what has caused this vast alteration, I should immediately calm her curiosity by reading to her the following business-like announcement, copied from Mr. Braidwood's official report:—"Theatre Royal, Covent Garden—Burnt down, properties and contents partially insured in the Phoenix and other offices. Building—insurance unknown."

Yes, Covent Garden Theatre, the Royal Italian Opera, one of the sights of London, the most magnificent theatrical establishment in Europe, the perfecting of which in its recent state ruined one of London's wealthiest men and hampered many others, is no more—a thing that has been, but that assuredly never will be again. I knew it in the day of its glory. I have seen it in its ruin. Let me record what I know of its final anguish.

It has been my fortune, good or ill, to attend many *bal masqués*. From the rattling carnival balls of the Grand Opera at Paris, with their Postillions, Debardeurs, Titis, Vivandières, Pierrots, Polichinelles, and wonderful variety of costume and fun, to the ghastly solemnity of a masquerade at Vauxhall, where the "romps" and charity-boys, the knights in armour, the devils and dustmen, the melancholy Greeks, the wretched Charles the Seconds, and the pasteboard-nosed gents, shriek and fight in the gravelled enclosure—I know them all. But I can safely say that never, during the whole course of my experience, did I ever "assist" at a scene of lower blackguardism than that which occurred at Covent Garden Theatre on the night of Mr. Anderson's *bal masqué*. We do not understand these affairs in England; Julien, who leads us by the nose better than anybody else, and who has succeeded in introducing us to one advantage with many foreign ideas, has utterly failed in making us comprehend the true spirit of the masquerade. There are many things against it; we are a dull prosaic people; we cannot stand chaff, nor can we return it, substituting generally an oath for a repartee; and, moreover, to don a costume is looked upon as a disgrace. So that Julien's balls, though attended by the very best of the "fast" set, all the private boxes and the dress circle being thronged, and all the arrangements of lighting, decoration, order, &c., perfect, when looked upon as sources of amusement, must be considered failures. Judge, then, of the scene presented by Professor Anderson's masquerade, at which there were not twenty persons present in evening dress, the decorations of which would have been discreditable to a barn, the company at which would have disgraced a dancing saloon and only held middle rank at a "penny gaff," the whole conduct of which was a disgrace to everyone connected with it. Can any of your readers who have seen this magnificent theatre filled with the first personages in the land, unexceptionably dressed, and listening with breathless attention to Grisi's sorrow or Mario's despair, imagine the boxes filled with drunken savages, with their feet sticking over the cushions, some of them eating the supper which they had procured from the saloon, and two-thirds at least of the male portion of the audience with cigars in their mouths? Less than one-tenth of the assemblage was in fancy costume, shooting coats, pea jackets, and muddy boots being in great force. Instead of the pretty white and gold drapery familiar to the frequenters of M. Julien's masquerades, the walls were covered with old theatrical "flats" roughly nailed against them, while the "flies" and all the upper portions of the theatre were left uncovered. A general air of melancholy pervaded the place; there were no extra lamps to illuminate the boarded pit; and the dingily-dressed dancers capered in a forced and solemn manner to the music of a dreary band. From eleven at night until four in the morning was this ghastly attempt at revelry proceeded with; then the numbers began to thin, but even at five o'clock there were still some 200 persons left. These, however, were so hopelessly used up, that Mr. Anderson instructed the band to play "God save the Queen" (a hint which is invariably taken even by the most drunken British audience), and it was during the performance of this anthem that two of the firemen, engaged in conversation on the stage, observed a bright light shining through the chinks and crevices of the carpenter's shop, high overhead. They hastened up stairs, and on arriving at the shop the whole danger was apparent. The place was filled with flame and smoke, heaps of charred and smouldering embers were scattered about; and on their endeavours to open one of the fire-mans connected with a tank on the roof, which would have turned eighteen tons of water into the theatre, the fire overtook the men and drove them back without their effecting their purpose. The jovial crowd on the stage, however, knew nothing of all this; no smell of fire could reach them through the dense clouds of tobacco smoke which hung over their heads, and they roared away at "Send her victorious," &c., until the sudden descent of a blazing groove in which the "wings" stand (not a "beam," as erroneously stated) first gave them the idea that something might be wrong. Then came an indescribable scene of confusion and horror. Mr. Anderson roared "Fire!" the few people left, rushed to the entrances, the gas was turned off, women were trampled on, wreaths of smoke and sheets of flame burst through the roof, and the police alone maintained that wonderful calmness and presence of mind which distinguishes them as a body, took possession of all the doors, prevented all entrance, and facilitated the egress of the frightened crowd. Now came the few feeble attempts at salvage. The proceeds of the night, which lay in the treasury, were carried off by a Mr. Hingston, who rejoices in the title of "the Wizard's secretary." Mr. Anderson, Mr. Ponteau, the treasurer of the theatre,

and Mr. E. T. Smith, of Drury Lane, rushed to Mr. Gye's private room and secured certain valuable documents and paraphernalia. Some properties and hanky-panky tricks belonging to Mr. Anderson, and fortunately placed in an apartment near the stage-door were saved, as were some furniture and a piano belonging to Mr. Costa. And now the flames had burst through the roof, and columns of fire darting into the air illuminated the surrounding neighbourhood for the distance of three miles, and showed the distant Surrey Hills standing out in bold relief. The glare, visible throughout the entire metropolis, roused the watches at every station throughout of the fire-brigade, and in a very few minutes the galloping of horses and the lumbering noise of the engines were heard at the end of Bow Street. Curiously enough, the first engine on the spot was one of those belonging to Delafield and Co., a partner of which house had ruined himself in the conduct of the opera. The supply of water was excellent, but those acquainted with the interior of theatres, know that every piece of woodwork is so heated with the constant gas as to be almost in the condition of touchwood, and that all scenes, wings, flats, cordage, canvas, and theatrical property generally, are peculiarly inflammable. The fire then, pent up, furnace-like, within the four huge walls, burst with incredible velocity until half-past five o'clock. Then, with a tremendous crash, the roof fell in, a volcano of sparks was shot into the air, and the most exciting part was at an end. No lives were lost. A man sleeping in the theatre, heard neither the roar of the populace nor the raging of the fire, but was awakened by a difficulty of respiration produced by the smoke, rushed to the window, and was promptly rescued by a ladder. There was also a rumour that a boy and a young woman were missing, but this, happily, turns out to be unfounded. The value of the property destroyed cannot possibly be told. All the fittings and decorations, all the magnificent scenery painted by Grievé and Telbin, all the mountings, dresses, and properties of sixty operas; the dramatic library, which was unique in its kind, the valuable operatic scores, some of which, such as the "Elisir d'Amore," by Donizetti, and the "Oberon" of Weber, can never be replaced; the original MSS. of the "School for Scandal," the "Miller and his Men," the score of the opera of "The Slave," and hundreds of other curious works; the armoury, consisting of more than 100 suits of real, admirably-finished armour, and four original pictures by Hogarth, representing the "Seasons," which hung in Mr. Gye's private room, are lost for ever.

Of the origin of the fire, nothing is, nor ever will be, correctly ascertained. Four firemen were on the establishment of the theatre, whose duty it was to visit hourly every part of the building. On Tuesday night they seem to have neglected this duty, and remained on the stage. People talk of a strong gas leakage, and it is reported that the machinist of the theatre had represented this fact to certain of the proprietors, who had ignored his statement. Should not some notice be taken of this?

At the time of this dreadful calamity, Mr. Gye was in Paris, where he had arrived at the close of a tour made for the purpose of contracting professional engagements for the forthcoming season. The news was telegraphed to him, and he came over at once, came over to see four blackened walls in Bow Street, and to find himself, I should imagine, an almost ruined man.

This is the second time that Covent Garden Theatre has been burned down. The old theatre, built by John Rich, the celebrated harlequin, was opened on the 17th of December, 1732, with Congreve's play of the "Way of the World." In this state it continued until 1782, when various improvements were made in the structure; it was partially rebuilt in 1792, from the designs of Henry Holland, the architect; and, on the night of the 20th September, 1808, was burnt to the ground. The plays announced were "Pizarro," and the "Quaker," but the latter was not performed, for the ignited wadding of the soldiers' muskets fired off in "Pizarro," lodged in some of the inflammable decorations of the scenery, and produced the catastrophe. In this fire twenty-two lives were lost, and the value of the property consumed was estimated at £100,000. The loss by the recent fire is roughly calculated at £250,000. On the 31st of December, 1808, the first stone of the new theatre was laid by the Prince of Wales, and the house was opened on the 18th of September, 1809, when the celebrated O. P. riots took place. The stage was fifty-five feet in length and eighty-six feet in width, the depth from the curtain to the back of the pit was sixty-six feet, and the theatre had a saloon the dimensions of which were fifty-six feet by nineteen feet. The most celebrated lessees of the theatre in modern days were Mr. Macready and Madame Vestris; but it was also occasionally hired by M. Julien for concerts, and by the Anti-Corn Law League for political meetings. In 1846, the building was entirely remodelled by M. Albano, re-decorated by Mr. Crace, and converted into an opera house. Messrs. Beale and Delafield were lessees, and Costa, Grisi, Mario, and Tamburini, succeeded from Mr. Lumley, and lent their aid to the new undertaking. Albani, also, there made her first appearance in England. Since Mr. Delafield's bankruptcy, the affairs have been managed by a committee of shareholders, among whom were Sir William De Bathe, Colonel Brownlow Knox, &c., &c., and Mr. Gye has had the chief direction.

I annex a list of the principal theatrical fires:—

LONDON THEATRES DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Drury Lane	in 1673	1809
Covent Garden 1808	1856
His Majesty's 1789	
English Opera House 1830	
Olympic 1840	
Surrey (Circus) 1805	
Astley's	in 1794	1803 1841
Royalty 1826	
Pavilion 1856	
Pantheon 1792	

The late building was the property of various "renters," who, of course, by its destruction have been severe losers, as it was uninsured, and they could have no possible claim upon any future erection. Among these proprietors were the Kemble family, the family of the late Mr. Harris, Mr. Surman, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Thomas Grieve, the eminent scene painter, &c. It is not believed that a theatre will be built on the site; nor is one wanted. The fallacy of so enormous a house for theatrical representation has long been proved. Even if it were not, we have still Drury Lane and the Old Opera House. Private residences and shops, or else the monster Model Hotel, will be erected on the area (some say a poultry market, for which the Duke of Bedford, the ground landlord, has a strong predilection), and Covent Garden Theatre, on the stage of which Incedon, Charles Kemble, Mrs. Glover, G. F. Cooke, Miss Stephens, Miss O'Neill, Macready, W. Farren, and Fanny Kemble, made their first appearance, and on the boards of which Edmund Kean made his farewell bow, will be simply a reminiscence and a name.

THE LOUNGER.

THE GREATEST WORK.—According to Mr. Stevenson, the railway lines constructed in our country exceed in length the ten chief rivers in Europe; and if the Thames and the Mersey be excluded, they undoubtedly carry more goods and passengers than are carried on all these rivers. In the United States, there are, according to the latest return, now 23,342 miles of rails, the increase in 1855 having been 3,408 miles, the rails of the States surpassing our rails as much as the rivers of America surpass those of Europe. When to these we add the rails of France, Germany, Belgium, and the other parts of Europe, as well as those of India and Australia, we have no doubt that railways constitute the greatest uniform work ever performed in a few years by the hand of man. All the high roads in Europe made in ancient and modern times sink into insignificance, though they were the work of many successive ages, compared to the great work in rails executed within 27 years. All the great pyramids, all the vast monuments and extensive walls of antiquity, all the churches and cathedrals of the middle ages, with which all Europe was almost simultaneously dotted, were trivial works compared to the railways, with their accompanying telegraphs and multiplied mechanical contrivances, that in a short period have been constructed, as if by one mind and one will, throughout the civilised world.—*Economist*.

Literature.

The Great World of London. By HENRY MAYHEW. London: Bogue, 85, Fleet Street.

It is the greatest boast of many, very many, people in the present day that they are "London men, sir;" that they know no grove equal to a grove of chimney-pots, no garden equal to Covent Garden, no market to a compared to the Haymarket; that they could not exist without the roar of the cabs, or the light of the gas, or the protection of the police. They will talk to you of the "horrible stink" of the country, of the monotony of provincial existence; of "vegetation, not life." They picture in their colours the horrors of being compelled to drag out your days in a country town; the absence of excitement, the craving for news, the feeling that you are exiled from the spot where stands the throne of civilisation, where all the beating arteries of commerce, art, science, literature, fashion, politics, and religion, converge, and are gathered up into the one vast throbbing heart—London. And yet to each of these persons, this one word represents an entirely different world. To the merchant, London is the site of the Bank and the Stock Exchange, the place where the news from all parts of the globe is most readily available; the city, where the most important "transactions" are carried on, and where there are more opportunities for a man of unflinching energy and unscrupulous perseverance. By the devotees and professors of art, science, and literature, London is regarded as the centre of civilisation, as the resort of their most wealthy patrons, as the place containing the Royal Society and the British Museum, as the capital of the country of Shakespeare and Milton, and as the chief mart in which natural talent is bartered for commercial gold. The fashionable lounge knows that although Paris may be looked upon as the headquarters of the goddess whom he worships, it is from London that she reaps the most solid benefits of her various inventions. The politician feels that there he has more latitude for speech and action, and stands to win higher prizes, and to incur less dangerous risks for his attempt at popularity. While to the religious fanatic, London offers the greatest number of seats for his selection, and the greatest amount of toleration for any extravagance of zeal shown by him in following the persuasion of his church. Each man has his own particular idea of that London which he holds out as the only habitable spot on the face of the globe; and there are but very few persons, indeed, who have any thoroughly clear notions of the thousand phases of existence which are passing daily under their very eyes, in that metropolis which they so extol. Perhaps, of these few, the most thoroughly erudite and experienced is Mr. Henry Mayhew, the first number of whose new serial work, the "Great World of London," is now before us. Mr. Mayhew is not a mere superficial observer, he is not even a mere clever photographer of the society into which a man in his position in life is likely to be thrown; but he is very much more. He possesses a wonderful power of research, an extraordinary aptitude of accommodating himself to the class amongst whom he may happen to be, inculcating such confidence as induces those to whom his inquiries are addressed, to answer freely and without reserve. He reproduces scenes, characters, and dialogue, with the most scrupulous fidelity; his statistics are so voluminous and exact, that even Mr. McCulloch himself would be gratified by a perusal of them; and, above all, he is thoroughly imbued with the true spirit of philanthropy. He writes no whining catalogue of the miseries of the poor, no hot-spiced, overdrawn account of the oppressions of the rich; he sets forth in simple and striking language the exact description of the moral and social condition of those with whom he has had communication, and leaves the inference to the common sense of his readers. It is some years since Mr. Mayhew first took upon himself the task of endeavouring to show to the newspaper-reading world, the course of life, the struggles, toils and privations, the sacrifices and the heroisms of their poorer brethren in London. From what we can gather from the commencing part, the present work is destined to form a complete descriptive history of the metropolis at the present time; delineating not so much the climate, geology, and topography of the capital, as its scenes and society, from the highest to the lowest grade.

In the first chapter, London is looked upon literally as a "Great World," proved by figures to be more numerous peopled than any single province, and than many an entire state. With Belgravia and Brompton Green for its opposite poles, and Temple Bar for its Equator, dividing the City hemispheres from that of the West End, "with a line of bunks, representative of the Gold Coast, in its immediate neighbourhood." We have next a B-lloon View of London, as experienced by the narrator in a cruise with Mr. Green, from which the following graphic description is extracted:—

"Far beneath, in the direction we were sailing, lay the suburban fields; and here the earth, with its tiny hills and plains and streams, assumed the appearance of the little coloured plaster models of countries. The roadways stripping the land were like narrow brown ribbons, and the river, which we could see winding far away, resembled a long, gray, metallic-looking snake, creeping through the fields. The bridges over the Thames were positively like planks; and the tiny black barges, as they floated along the stream, seemed no bigger than summer insects on the water. The largest meadows were about the size of green-baize table covers; and across these we could just trace the line of the South-Western Railway, with the little whiff of white steam issuing from some passing engine, and no greater in volume than the jet of vapour from an ordinary tea-kettle."

"In the opposite direction to that in which the wind was insensibly wafting the balloon, lay the levitating Metropolis, with a dense canopy of smoke hanging over it, and reminding one of the fog of vapour that is often seen steaming up from the fields at early morning. It was impossible to tell where the monster city began or ended, for the building stretched not only to the horizon on either side, but far away into the distance, where, owing to the coming shades of evening, and the dense fumes from the million chimneys, the town seemed to blend into the sky, so that there was no distinguishing earth from heaven. The multitude of roofs that extended back from the foreground was positively like a dingy red sea, heaving in bracken billows, and the seeming waves rising up one after the other till the eye grew weary with following them. Here and there we could distinguish little bare green patches of parks, and occasionally make out the tiny circular enclosures of the principal squares, though, from the height, these appeared scarcely bigger than wafters. Further, the fog of smoke that over-shadowed the giant town was pierced with a thousand steeples and pin-like factory-chimneys."

"That little building, no bigger than one of the small china houses that are used for burning pastilles in, is Buckingham Palace—with St. James's Park, dwindled to the size of a card-table, stretched out before it. Yonder is Bethlehem hospital, with its dome, now of about the same dimensions as a ball."

"Then the little mites of men, crossing the bridges, seemed to have no more motion in them than the animals in cheese; while the streets appeared mere like cracks in the soil than highways, and the tiny steamers on the river were only to be distinguished by the thin black thread of smoke trailing after them."

"Indeed, it was a most wonderful sight to behold that vast bracken mass of churches and hospitals, banks and prisons, palaces and workhouses, docks and refuges for the destitute, parks and squares, and courts and alleys, which make up London—all blent into one immense black spot—to look down upon the whole as the birds of the air look down upon it, and see it dwindled into a mere rubbish heap—to contemplate from afar that strange conglomeration of vice, avarice, and low cunning, of noble aspirations and humble heroism, and to grasp it in the eye, in all its incongruous integrity, at one single glance—to take, as it were, an angel's view of that huge town, where, perhaps, there is more virtue and more iniquity, more wealth and more want, brought together into one dense focus, than in any other part of the earth—to hear the hubbub of the restless sea of life and emotion below, and hear it, like the ocean in a shell, whispering of the incessant struggles and chafings of the distant tide—to swing in the air high above all the petty jealousies and heart-burnings, small ambitions and vain parade of "polite" society, and feel, for once, tranquil as a lake in a cot, and that you are hardly of the earth earthy, as Jacob-like, you mount the aerial ladder, and half lose sight of the 'great commercial world' beneath, where men are regarded as mere counters to play with, and where to do your neighbour as your neighbour would do you, constitutes the first principle in the religion of trade—to feel yourself floating through the endless realms of space, and drinking in the pure thin air of the skies, as you go sailing along amidst among the stars, free as the lark at heaven's gate, and enjoying for a brief half-hour, at least, a foretaste of that Elysian destiny which is the ultimate hope of all."

This long extract warns us that our space is limited, else would we call attention to the "Contrasts of London," the description of Petticoat Lane, of the examination of juvenile thieves, of the streets by night, of the different characteristics of the various quarters of the metropolis, of the peculiarities of certain thoroughfares; else would we point out the original thoughts, the clever arrangement of facts, the lucid and picturesque description everywhere manifested. The reader must read the book, and judge for himself whether the laudation is exaggerated.

SUSPECTED WIFE POISONING AT LEEDS BY
STRYCHNINE.

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST DAY'S EVIDENCE.

An inquest was held on Friday, last week, at Leeds, on the body of a woman aged 28, the wife of Mr. William Dove, a gentleman of means, residing in Cardigan Place, Bury, near Leeds, whose death was caused by poisoning by strychnine.

The evidence adduced, it appeared, was as follows:—The deceased was called in to attend the deceased's mother, who was suffering from a disorder of the stomach and of the nervous system, and who was occasionally, and in a short time she was so prostrated, that she could not move about freely and take open-air exercise, and when she became somewhat worse. On the 11th of February, she was given some jelly, which had been taken to her by a friend, and on seeing it she was very angry, and on seeing it she was very angry, and on seeing it she was very angry.

She did not put more than a teaspoonful in it, and on the 12th of February, she was given some jelly, which had been taken to her by a friend, and on seeing it she was very angry, and on seeing it she was very angry, and on seeing it she was very angry.

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the deceased, Mr. Morley, I should say, "By the way, I was surprised to find that the stomach of Mrs. Dove contained strychnine in solution, and that it was the cause of death."

On examining his evidence, Mr. Morley said—On Thursday morning last I had a conversation with Mr. Dove with reference to the examination of his wife. I had called at the house of his mother, and he had called me into another room. He and I had been sitting at a table. He then said, "I wish to know, Mr. Morley, what you think of my wife's case?" I then said, "I think she is suffering from a disorder of the stomach and of the nervous system, and that she is occasionally, and in a short time she is so prostrated, that she cannot move about freely and take open-air exercise, and when she becomes somewhat worse. On the 11th of February, she was given some jelly, which had been taken to her by a friend, and on seeing it she was very angry, and on seeing it she was very angry, and on seeing it she was very angry."

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contractions, but her mind was unimpaired. I noticed that there were twitches of the muscles of the face, and that during those twitches the teeth were brought together, and the fingers were grasped towards the palm of the hand. I did not notice that there was any arching of the body, or throwing herself back. Her head was thrown back slightly. I was at the medical school at the lecture, and was called out a few minutes before 11 o'clock. I found Mr. Dove at the surgery, and I returned with him to his house. On our way, Mr. Dove used words to the effect, "If my wife were to die, would there be a coroner's inquest, or would the coroner require an examination?" (Sensation.) I said I thought the coroner's jurisdiction only extended to cases of sudden death, accident, or death from poisoning. Then he asked if Mr. Morley would have an examination, and I said most likely he would, as he generally had examinations. He did not say anything more.

The Coroner—Did he say anything about a post mortem?

Mr. Starch—When I said Mr. Morley would like an examination, he said, "I am sure my wife would not like one, neither should I, nor my family." I said, "I have no doubt you would object, because you objected when Mr. Morley wanted to make an examination of your father." I think that was the whole of the conversation on the subject. I saw Mrs. Dove on Thursday, the 12th, when she was suffering from the same kind of attack, but more violent. She was still sensible. I don't recollect anything she said to me. I asked her if she felt any pain between the shoulders, near the chest, and she said, "Yes, very bad when the attacks are on." I also asked if she felt at the mouth and bit her teeth, and she said, "Yes, very bad when the attacks are on." When I asked her if she had pain, she spoke and said she had during the paroxysms. She was not better when I left. As soon as I saw Mr. Morley I told him that I had been to see Mrs. Dove, and she continued in the same state as when I had seen her. The spasms were not continuously violent, but were on and off. Her husband was in the room at the time. I told them they would better give her a sedative draught which had been sent for her to the evening, and that Mr. Dove had better return with me, and I would give him another. Between 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday night, the 11th inst., I was in Mr. Morley's yard, when some one passed me, and I recognised the person as Mr. Dove. I asked him how Mrs. Dove was. He said, she was much worse; that he had come to request Mr. Morley to go and take Dr. Hobson with him. Mrs. Dove took the draught on Thursday night, but I did not stay to see what effect it had. Mr. Dove was going to give her the draught, and he said, "Oh, wait until this spasm is off," and he did.

James Peacock said—I am surgery boy to Mr. Morley. I know the prisoner by his coming for his wife's medicines. I have known him since December. I have been present in the surgery nearly every time he came. I was present about four or five weeks ago when Mr. Dove came for his wife's medicine. He looked at the bottles, and said, "Tartaric acid, antimony," and observed, "I suppose this is what Palmer killed his wife with." On the same shelf was strychnine, and he said, "I suppose they can't test strychnine?" I said, "Yes, they can." He replied, "They can test all minerals and vegetables but strychnine." I said, "Yes, they can; Mr. Morley tested it and found it in the stomach of a young woman who died at New Road End." I don't know that anything else took place. I was present when Mr. Elletson gave him strychnine the second time. It would be a fortnight before Mrs. Dove's death. He said, "I have put some strychnine on some meat, and a cat got some, and was found dead about twenty yards from the place." He added, speaking to Mr. Elletson, "Will you give me a little more, as there are some more cats I want to kill?" Mr. Elletson gave him some, about four or five grains, and wrapped it in a white powder paper. Mr. Elletson wrote the word "poison" upon it. It was at my suggestion. When Mr. Dove was putting it into his pocket, I said, "You had better have 'poison' written on it, as some one may get hold of it." He then gave it to Mr. Elletson, who wrote "poison" upon it. These are the only two occasions on which I heard him say anything about poison.

Mr. Nunneley was then called, and stated that there was no organic disease observable in the deceased. In his opinion death resulted from strychnine.

The Coroner—Have you any doubt about it?

Mr. Nunneley—No. There is no other substance which would have produced the same effects during life and in the analysis. Some of the tests I should not like to rely upon alone; but, taking them as a whole, I think they are infallible and conclusive, precluding the possibility of any other substance producing the same appearance in all the tests. He had no doubt there had been more doses than one given, but it was the last dose which caused death. Strychnine not being a cumulative poison, the other doses would have passed off.

Elizabeth Fisher, maid-servant in the employ of the prisoner and the deceased, gave evidence to the effect that it was on the 10th of February when Mr. Dove took the poison home. She also spoke as to the poisoning of the cats, but denied that they were troubled with cats. She said the prisoner often went home drunk and treated his wife with great unkindness. He often swore at her and struck her, and on more than one occasion he had threatened to kill her. About a fortnight after they came to Leeds, on his coming home drunk, she remonstrated with him, and he told her he would do her job for her one time or another; and on a Saturday, shortly afterwards, when he again came home drunk, he ordered the witness out of the dining room, and a few minutes afterwards she heard the deceased scream out. She ran into the room, and found the prisoner holding his wife by his left hand, while he was flourishing the carving-knife over her with the other. He also called her by an opprobrious name. On another occasion he struck her over the head, and she went up stairs and fainted; and a few days afterwards, on her requesting him not to go out, he told her to mind her own business, or he would give her a pill that would do for her. In consequence of those threats the deceased requested the witness, in the event of her death, to urge her (the deceased's) friends to have a post mortem examination, as she was sure her husband would do something to her.

The inquest was then again adjourned.

The prisoner was in court during the inquiry, but did not appear to take much interest in the proceedings.

THE LEEDS CASE AND THE RUGELEY CASES.

The important evidence given in this case by Mr. Morley and Mr. Nunneley, the surgeons, has excited the attention of the friends of William Palmer, of Rugeley, and at the present time they are in communication with these gentlemen relative to their being called as witnesses in Palmer's trial in the case of Mr. John Parsons Cook. The evidence given by Messrs. Morley and Nunneley, as to the detection of strychnine in the human body after death, is in direct opposition to the theory propounded by Professor Taylor, who has given it as his opinion that its discovery at all is doubtful, and in no case possible after a very few hours subsequent to death. On the other hand, Mr. Morley and Mr. Nunneley, who rank very high indeed as analytical chemists, have positively and distinctly stated that they discovered the presence of strychnine in the stomach of Mrs. Dove as late as the fifth day after death.

THE POISON STRYCHNINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

SIR,—The writer of the article "Strychnine," in a former number, has fallen into a serious, though not uncommon, error at the very outset.

First, we have an engraving of "The Upas Tree," and speaking of this, he says, "It is of the same tribe of plants as that from which the Strychnos Nux Vomica is obtained." Assuming that by "Strychnos Nux Vomica" the writer means *Str. Toxicaria*, this assertion is very far from being correct.

The *Str. Toxicaria*, or Bohun Upas, of Java and Celebes, is a forest tree sometimes attaining to the height of 100 feet. Its poisonous effects, which have been much exaggerated, are due not to Strychnine but to a principle called Antipyrine, which, according to Sir B. Brodie, causes death by producing paralysis of the heart. This is the Upas of Danby's picture. On the other hand, the Upas Tree, which owes its poison to Strychnine, is a climbing shrub of the order Apocynaceae—to this also the *Nux Vomica* belongs. It is likewise a native of Java, and is known by the local name Tjeteck.

It is to the circumstance of the name "Upas" being common to both varieties, and the fact of both of them occurring in the same locality, that the mistake is to be referred.

Dublin.

H. DRAPER.

ADJOURNED INQUEST.

The adjourned inquest was resumed on Monday. The proceedings excited great interest, and a large number of persons attended to witness them. Mr. Barret, solicitor, attended on the part of the prisoner.

Mr. Morley, surgeon, on the opening of the proceedings, stated, with respect to the analysis, that, acting upon the recommendations of Dr. Taylor and the highest authorities, he had carefully avoided forming an opinion till the close of the analysis. He also explained that the symptoms he observed were only of a slight character, and might have been caused by hysteria. The effect on his mind did not amount to suspicion. The thought of strychnine crossed his mind, but not in the character of a suspicion, for the symptoms were quite explicable by hysteria. They knew that hysteria very often simulated tetanus to a certain extent, and so far as the symptoms he saw were concerned, they might easily have been produced by hysteria, and persons who were pregnant were more liable to hysteria.

Mr. Barret—Was Mrs. Dove pregnant?

Mr. Morley—She was three months gone.

In the statement produced respecting the analysis of the stomach of



HER MAJESTY, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PRINCESS ROYAL, VISITING THE RUINS OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

ROYAL VISITS TO THE RUINS OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT.

On Thursday, the very day after the conflagration, her Majesty, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Duke of Cambridge, visited the ruins. Her Majesty, the Princess Royal, arrived about four o'clock, attended by Lady Clarendon, the Lady in Waiting, Major-General Buckley, and Captain the Hon. Dudley de Ros, as Esquierres. The royal party approached the theatre by the way of Hart Street, and alighted in Prince's Place, in which her Majesty's private entrance was situated. There they were received by Mr. Gye, the lessee of the building, who had arrived from Paris in the course of the morning, and conducted to a position which commanded an advantageous view of the ruins. To reach this point, her Majesty and the Princess Royal had to pass through a portion of a lobby connecting the Royal yard with the Piazza entrance to the pit, and strewn over with the charred ruins, through which they had to pick their steps with care. They were conducted through a low doorway in one of the exterior walls, to a spot near what had been the position of her Majesty's private box, from which they obtained an excellent view of the ruins. They were able to form an adequate conception of the vast area covered by the building, and the melancholy scene of desolation and destruction which it presented. After asking Mr. Gye a few questions, her Majesty, the Princess Royal, and the Royal suite left the theatre, and returned to Buckingham Palace.

PRINCE ALBERT'S VISIT.

Shortly after five o'clock, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by Colonel Phipps, and Captain the Hon. Dudley de Ros, drove up in a private carriage to the Royal entrance in Prince's Place, and on alighting were received by Mr. Gye, and conducted to the spot from which the Queen and the Princess Royal had just inspected the ruins. His Royal Highness spent about 20 minutes contemplating the spectacle of destruction, and then retired.

On the same day on which her Majesty visited the ruins, several members of the nobility and aristocracy were also attracted to the scene of the conflagration. Among these were the Duchess of Wellington, the Duke of Bedford, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lady Peel, Lord Ward, Lord Cavendish, Lord Marcus Hill, Lord Elcho, and Mr. Hardinge, M.P.

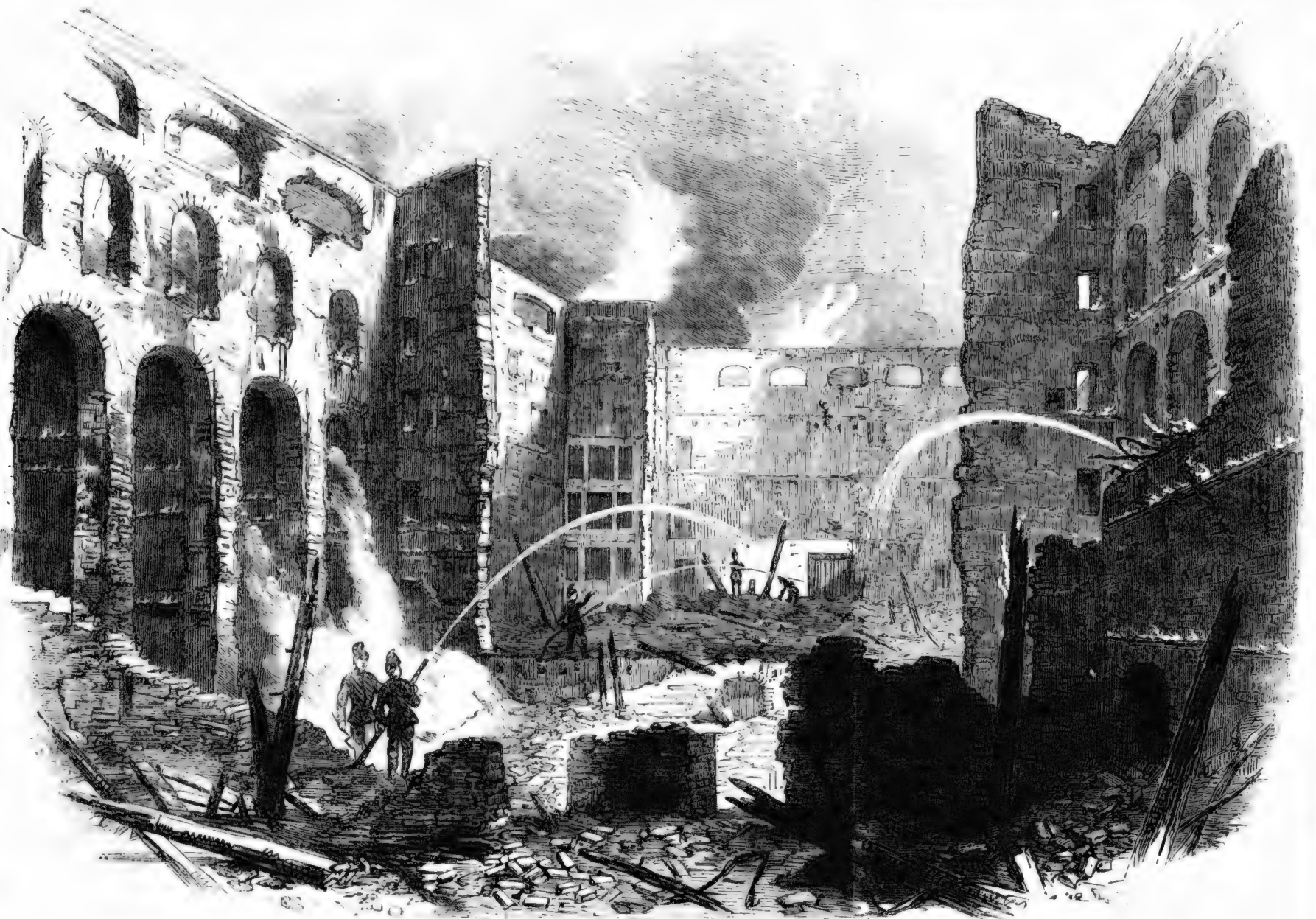
Throughout the whole of Thursday barriers were thrown across both ends of Bow Street and Hart Street, which form the only means of access to the theatre, so as to divert the whole of the passenger and carriage traffic, the latter of which might endanger the external walls left standing. Shores were erected in the course of the day to support the side of the edifice abutting upon Hart Street, from which danger was apprehended, and policemen were stationed to prevent persons privileged to pass away that thoroughfare from loitering in a place which commanded, though not without risk, the most advantageous view of the ruins.

VISIT OF THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AND OTHER ROYAL PERSONAGES.

Among the earliest of the visitors on Friday, March 7, was his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge—a constant and liberal supporter of the Royal Italian Opera. His Royal Highness was received by Mr. Gye, and conducted over the wreck of the building to those points of view from which the best observation of the ruins could be obtained. The Duke expressed to Mr. Gye his deep regret at the heavy misfortune that had befallen him; and, when informed of the lessee's confident intention to carry on the opera in some other metropolitan theatre during the present season, his Royal Highness spoke in the most encouraging manner of the proposed enterprise. After devoting half an hour to an inspection of the ruins, his Royal Highness took his departure.

At half-past three o'clock his Royal Highness Prince Alfred arrived at the theatre, attended by Colonel Phipps. Mr. Gye had left at this time, and in his absence his Royal Highness was received by Mr. Ponteau, treasurer and secretary to the theatre, by whom, attended by Mr. Superintendent Durkin of the F division, the young Prince was conducted over the ruins. Mr. Ponteau pointed out to his Royal Highness the most remarkable results of the conflagration, and, carefully avoiding all points of danger, led the Prince to those spots from whence the best view of the coup d'œil could be obtained.

Prince Alfred had scarcely left when his Royal Highness the Prince of



GENERAL VIEW OF THE RUINS OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE AFTER THE FIRE.

Wales arrived, attended by Mr. Gibbs. Mr. Pontean acted as *cicerone* to his Royal Highness, accompanied as before by Superintendent Durkin and Inspector Dodd. The Prince desired to be led to the spot from whence her Majesty had viewed the interior of the building on the previous day, a request which was immediately complied with. His Royal Highness expressed the deepest interest in the scene here disclosed; and, selecting a few curious relics from the *débris* of molten glass and other refuse lying around, asked permission to retain them, which was immediately accorded by Mr. Pontean. The Prince viewed the building from almost every point of view, and before retiring expressed, in a very gracious manner, his sense of the attention which had been shown him.

PULLING DOWN THE RUINS.

The members of the nobility who continued to arrive throughout the day—both ladies and gentlemen—kept the officials constantly occupied, the dangerous state of certain parts of the building rendering it necessary that no persons should be allowed to approach the ruins unattended. As the walls settle, the partially destroyed principals and beams give way, and large quantities of bricks and rubbish were continually falling. The Chief Commissioner of Police, Sir Richard Mayne, has several times visited the ruins; and, on Thursday, after consulting the surveyors appointed under the 18 and 19 Vic., cap. 122, it was determined that all such portions of the outer and inner walls as were in an unsafe state should be at once pulled down. Accordingly, application was made to the sitting magistrate at Bow Street, and formal permission having been granted, Messrs. Holland Brothers, of Duke Street, the builders appointed by the Commissioners of Police for shoring up and pulling down ruinous buildings, under the above act, were directed to commence operations forthwith. On Thursday night, last week, the lofty wall abutting on Hart Street was partially shored up, preparatory to being pulled down, the surveyors having condemned this portion of the building as unsafe. On Friday, 200 men were laid on; and on Saturday all access to the ruins was stopped, as well for the safety of the public as not to impede the operations of the workmen.

The surveyors have condemned almost all the walls, both on the outside and in the interior of the building. They are to be pulled down at first to a level which will render accident almost impossible, and then the ruins will be handed over to the representatives of the proprietors of the theatre.

WINDOW GARDENING, AND THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS.—NO. III.

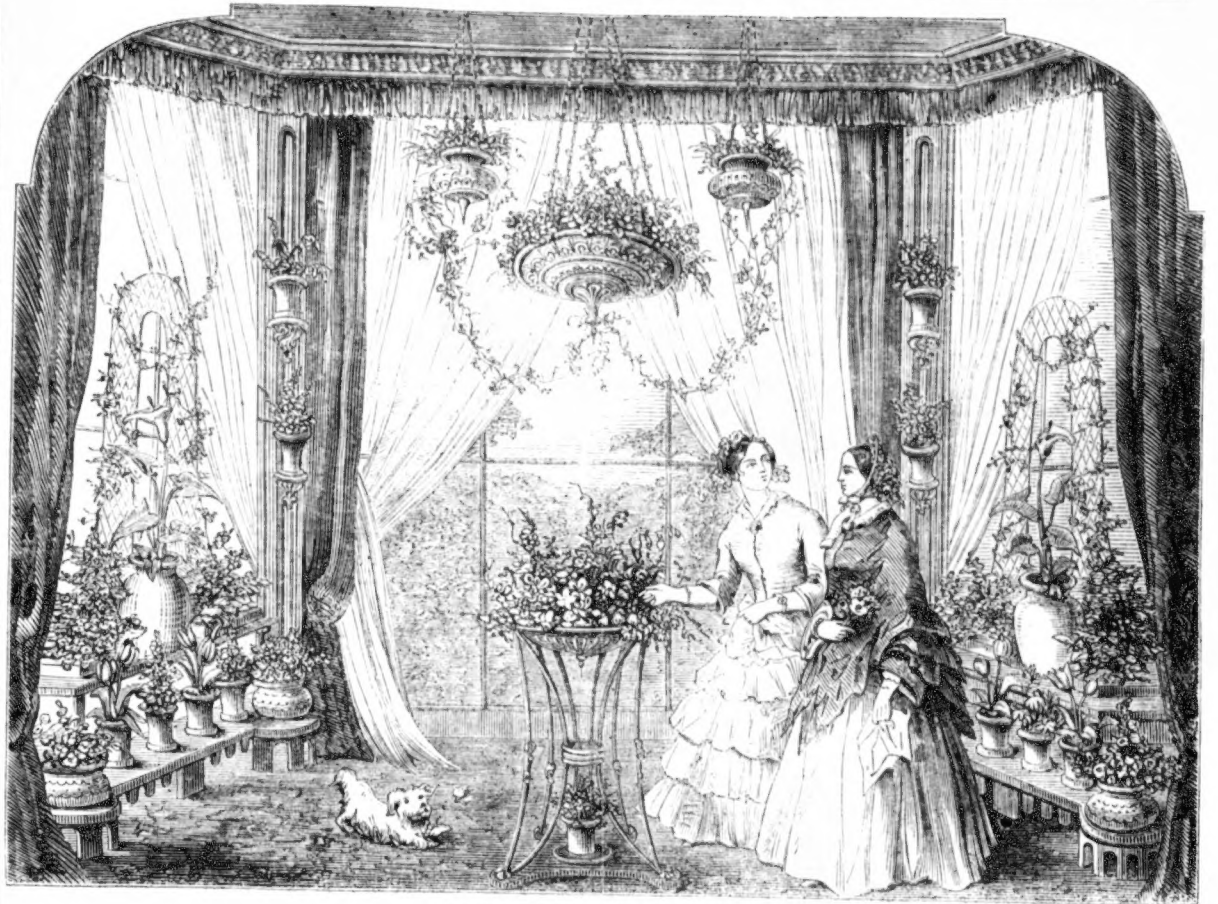
It is by no means unusual to see a flower-stand near the principal window of the drawing-room, in many of the pretty suburban residences which now surround the great metropolis, as with a vast belt of gardens and villas on every side. But it is very rare to find the introduction of flowers, as a means of chamber decoration, carried out with any pretension to tasteful arrangement, though so much elegance and refinement of effect might be obtained by such means, in a very simple and inexpensive manner. For instance, a small work-table, of ordinary character, might be made to play the part of a very elegant *jardiniere* at very trifling expense, with the addition of a little careful ingenuity.

Let us suppose a small table, about 15 inches across the top, on a pretty pillar-and-claw stand. We will procure a shallow circular basket, of graceful pattern, without handle, such as are used frequently for ladies' work-baskets. Let it be painted a bright lively green, or not, at pleasure; cover the top of the table with a piece of oil-cloth, cut to fit the shape, to prevent injury from moisture, and then place the basket upon it. Place within the basket five or six pots of plants in full bloom, so as not to crowd the space too much, and then fill the vacant space all round and all the interstices with damp moss, which can be collected on the borders of the nearest country lane at this season, or bought at a penny the bundle in Covent Garden. The tops of the flower-pots and the mould should also be covered, so as to give to the plants the appearance of growing out of the moss. The use of the moss is twofold; in the first place it produces the picturesque effect desired, and in the second place prevents the too rapid evaporation of moisture from the surface of the pots, and thus renders very frequent watering unnecessary, which, in a room, is very desirable. When, however, it is thought that a general renewal of the supply of moisture has become necessary, the basket with its contents should be removed together to some situation where they can be completely saturated by watering over the tops from a watering-can with a very finely perforated nose, which will remove every particle of dust from the foliage and flowers, the accumulation of which is one of the principal causes of the bad success which generally attends all attempts to cultivate flowers in sitting-rooms. When the basket has been allowed to drain, till

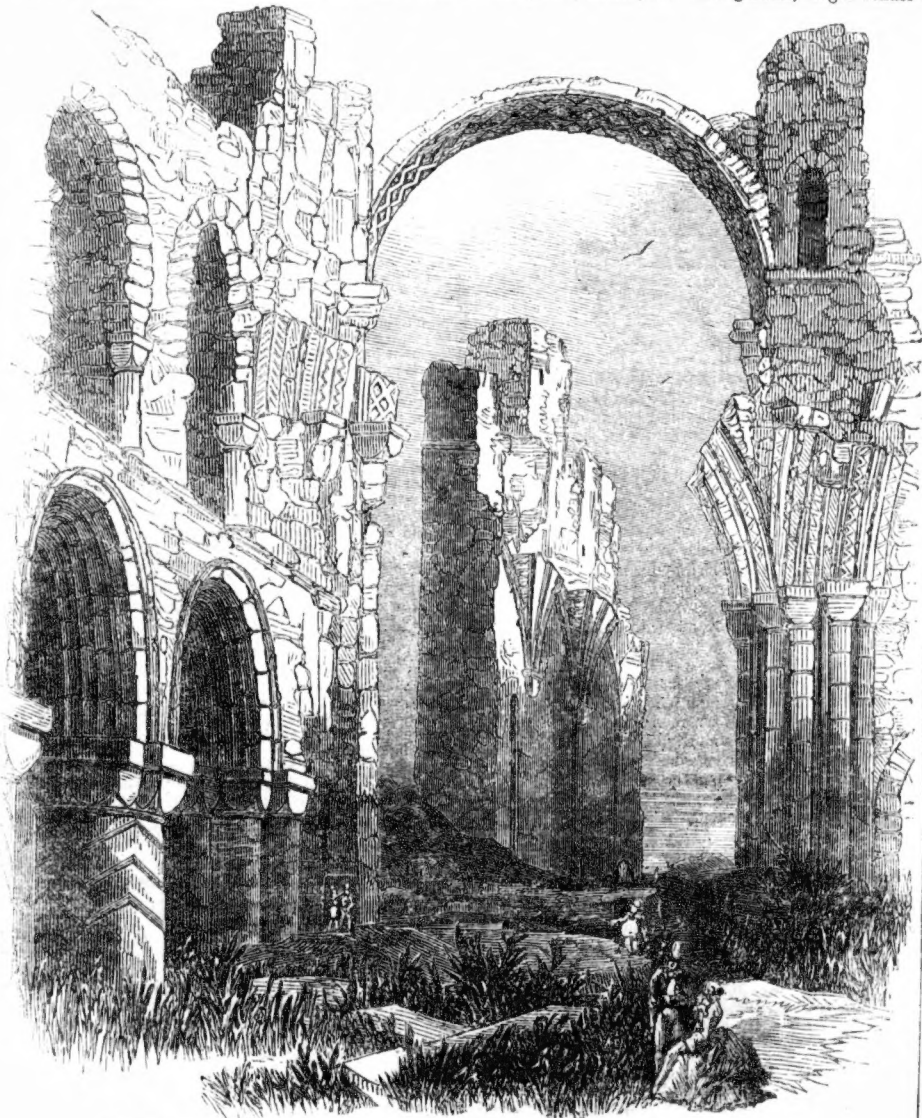
no more water is found to drip, it may be replaced in its original situation, and will become as fresh and beautiful as the spring foliage of the open fields, or the most scientifically tended conservatories. A group formed of five or six pots of violets, or polyanthes, or even common primroses, treated in this manner, may be made to produce a most elegant effect. We have, at the present moment, such a group of the common primrose in our own drawing-room, which is the admiration of all visitors, from the wonderful profusion of blossom which is exhibited. The plants were potted early in February, and placed in the mossed basket when in full flower, a few days ago. In the fields and lanes, this exquisite native spring-flower is just beginning to show its sunny-tinted buds and blossoms; and a very pleasant memento of a country ramble might be secured by taking up five or six roots of the finest and strongest plants, with a sufficient ball of earth. Potting them carefully without loss of time, and treating them in the manner described, they would suffer but little from the removal, and would continue, with good treatment, to throw up a profusion of blossoms for five or six weeks at least.

The design, engraved above, exhibits a more extensive scheme of floral decoration for the drawing-room of a suburban villa of ordinary size, by means of which a very elegant and even striking effect might be produced, at a comparatively small outlay, and with but little trouble. The design represents a projecting window, in three compartments, supposed to be that of the drawing-room, where the close proximity of the neighbouring houses, and their gardens, might render it desirable that the side com-

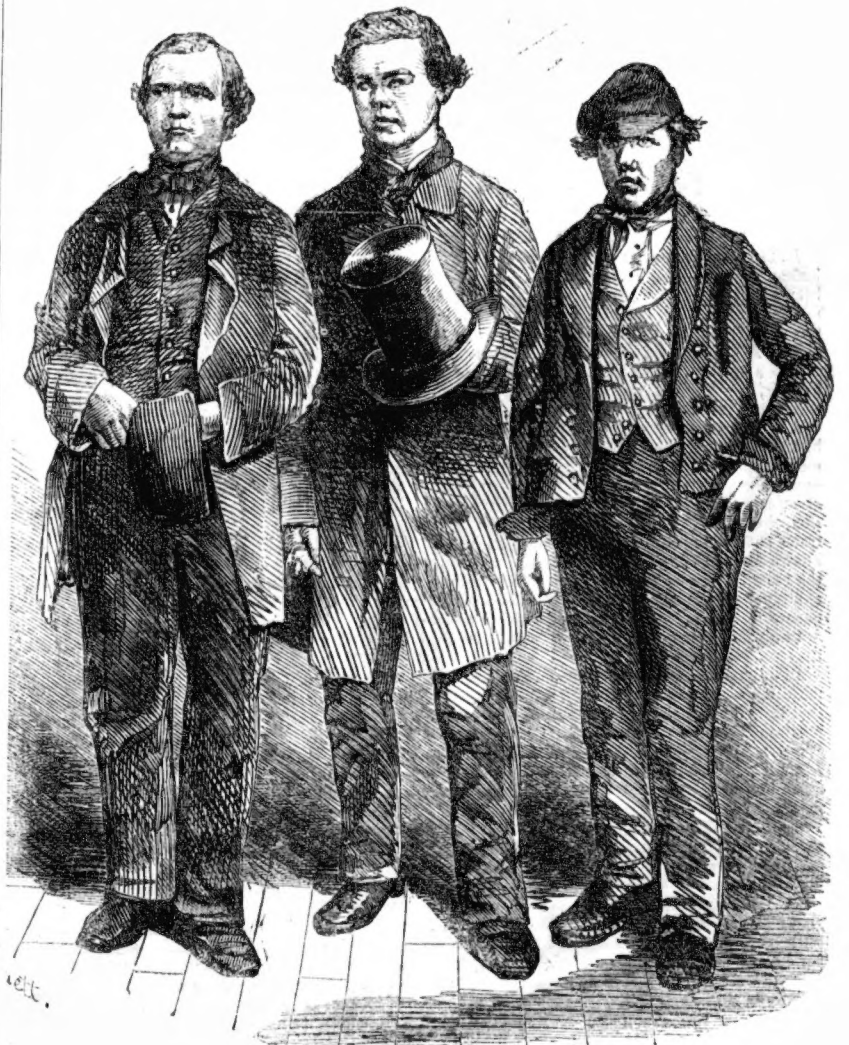
partments of our bow window, opening towards them, should be partially screened. For this purpose, it is proposed to combine the ornamental with the useful by producing a pleasing floral combination, in an attractive and ornamental form, that shall at the same time serve as the desired screen. With this end in view, we should raise at the back of such a flower-stand as that shown in the engraving, or one of a more ordinary description, a light trellis of wirework, ornamental in its pattern, and agreeable in its general form. For security, it should be well supported at the back; and, in tone of colour, should be made to harmonise with that of the main stand. For training over such a trellis, no plant is more suitable or more attractive than the beautiful *Maurandia Barclayana*, of which small plants can be procured at 6d. each, but if a higher growth be desired, there are the different species of *Lophospermum*, the well-known *Tropæolum Canariensis*, of which the seeds (1d. per packet) should now be planted; or the less known, but very pretty blue *Nasturtium*, as it is improperly called, the *Tropæolum Coruleum*. The gaudy *Kennedia Pedunculata* is likewise suited for this purpose, though rather tender; as also the *Rhodochiton Volubile*; or, if it be desirable to cover a great height, the *Cobæa Scandens*. The pot flowers on the stand, during the early part of the season, may be *Cinerarias*, double *Tulips*, *China Primroses*, or pots of the common wild *Primroses*, *Primula vera*, than which no flower is more beautiful at this season. To these may be added a fine plant of *Calla Ethiopica*, for the central or crowning object—plants of which, if they have been well protected during the winter, will now be coming into bloom.



DRAWING-ROOM FLORAL DECORATION.



RESTORED CIRCULAR ARCH OF THE RUINED TOWER OF LINDISFARN PRIORY.



TICKET-OF-LEAVE MEN.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY WALKING.)

RESTORATION OF THE RUINED ARCH OF LINDISFARN PRIORY.

Those of our readers to whom the island of Lindisfarn is familiar—if indeed, that can properly be called an island which is connected during some hours of every day with the mainland—will remember the ancient picturesque ruins of St. Cuthbert's Priory, of which an engraving is given on the previous page. Many a pleasant hour have we whiled away at this picturesque spot, admiring the bold position of the Castle, the massive forms of the old Norman masonry, and the light and graceful arch that spans the heap of crumbling ruins which Time in his course has overthrown. From hence, our eyes, sweeping across the bay, may take note of Berwick. Almost opposite to us, we have the Farn Islands, on which still remain some of the old monastic buildings; and here, too, is Grace Darling's lighthouse. Far away on our right is the commanding castle of Bamborough. It has often been a matter of regret with us that the venerable ruins of St. Cuthbert's Priory, which form such a conspicuous object to the passing mariner, should be suffered year by year to dandle away, seemingly uncared for. A large quantity of the materials appear to have been worked into the houses of the village, and other portions of these interesting remains have become buried beneath the sand of the sea-shore. About two years ago, the large and beautifully-moulded zig-zag arch represented in the engraving, was blown down during a storm, and the attention of the Duke of Northumberland having been directed to the circumstance, Mr. Salvin, the architect, was commissioned to restore it. He has fortunately succeeded in collecting together the various fragments, and has replaced them in a masterly manner, to all appearances precisely in the same positions they formerly occupied. We trust that this remnant of antiquity, so satisfactorily restored, will be preserved for centuries to come as a valuable historical memorial.

The history of the Priory of Lindisfarn extends as far back as 660, when Finan, a monk from the famous monastery of Iona, on being appointed bishop, rebuilt the church, as Mr. Raine says, "after the manner of Scotland." This, like most of the churches of that period, was probably only a structure of planks and strong timber-work, thatched with reeds.

The old bishops of Lindisfarn do not seem to have continued for long in the enjoyment of the see, for we find that in 661, Colman, another monk from Iona, succeeded Finan, and in 664, on his resignation, Tuda, a Scottish monk, was appointed to the see.

This bishop and several of the monks were swept away in less than a year by a pestilence, and it was during this time of danger that Cuthbert, the famous Northumbrian saint, was appointed prior. He, however, resigned the office in 676, and retired to the still more solitary island of the Farn, to lead in that wild, dreary place, a hermit's life, in a rude cell, constructed of stones and turf.

So celebrated was Cuthbert for his sanctity, that several priests removed to the lone island to share his conversation and company. He was at this time solicited to become bishop of Hexham, but for a long time declined to accept the office, and only complied when Egfrid, king of Northumberland, his nobles, and clergy, proceeded to the Farn Island, to urge him to revoke his decision. This he held for a few years, when, old and infirm, he retired to his favourite cell near the sea, and in two short months afterwards died.

In the year 1082 the Bi-ship of Durham changed the name of Lindisfarn to that of the Holy Island; and in 1093 the founder of the church, the ruins of which are shown in the engraving, was buried there. Reginald, a monk of Durham, who wrote in 1185, gives the following particulars of the building of this interesting structure:—

"By command of the Bishop of Durham, there once dwelt at Lindisfarn the monks, one of their body, by name Edward, whose high regard for religion, whose steady adherence to the rules of his order, and whose unwavering urbanity of manner, had rendered him an universal favourite. He associated with the monks because he took an honest interest in their pursuits; and to the knights he had endeared himself by his courtesy and munificence. His main anxiety was to increase the possessions and improve the buildings of the Church, and with these feelings he erected on the island a new church in honour of St. Cuthbert, which he finished of square stone in the utmost elegance of workmanship. The stone was brought from the adjacent coast, and the men of the neighbourhood willingly gave a helping hand. There was no lack of stone upon the island, but it was thought that, as it became soft from the action of the spray of the sea, and was apt to break into small particles, it was unfit for so large a building. Its fragments, however, served to fill up the interstices of the walls."

It is added, that crowds of labourers who had passed over the island with stones for the new building, were, by Edward's interest with St. Cuthbert, enabled to drink for a whole day from a cup which was never replenished by mortal hands. This, however, is but a trifle in comparison with some of the miracles ascribed to the Northumbrian saint, who is supposed still to wander about his old haunts; and in the mist and storm has been thought to have been seen standing on a certain rock, and using another as his anvil on which to forge his beads. Sir Walter Scott, in "Marmion," referring to this superstition, says:—

"But fain St. Hilda's nuns would learn
If on a rock by Lindisfarn,
St. Cuthbert sits, and toils to frame
The sea-borne beads that bear his name.
Such tales had Whithby's fishers told,
And said they might his shape behold,
And hear his anvil sound;
A deadened clang—a huge dim form,
Seen but and heard when gath'ring storm
And night were closing in."

A GROUP OF TICKET-OF-LEAVE MEN.

EVERY regular reader of those painful records of human crime and human misery, the police reports of the daily papers, cannot fail to have been struck by the frequent recurrence after a prisoner's name, of the announcement, that he, the said prisoner, was a ticket-of-leave man. From this the reader is apt to assume that the ticket-of-leave system has turned out a failure, and that the authorities are madly letting loose upon society a very dangerous class of men, who ought, at all costs and at all hazards, to have been kept in that close confinement which, having reference to the sentences passed upon them, is considered to be their just due.

A very cursory glance into the working of the ticket-of-leave system will, however, convince the reader that such assumptions as the above are by no means supported by the facts of the case. If the system has not achieved a great success, it is very far from having proved a lamentable failure, such as would be supposed from the outcry raised against it. We should mention, that from the very outset certain of the metropolitan police magistrates committed themselves to a condemnation of the system, and it is well known now that they formed their opinions from colourable statements of the police. The regular attendants at the police courts—clerks, solicitors, and reporters—imbibed the magisterial bias in due course; and the consequence is, that every police case in which a ticket-of-leave man figures is not only daily chronicled, but it is usually touched in by the reporter in the strongest possible relief.

In July, 1854, an Act was passed to abolish the punishment of transportation for the short terms of 7 and 10 years. It is an error to suppose that the punishment of transportation was altogether abolished. Criminals sentenced to transportation for 14 years or for life, are still sent to Western Australia, and such places as Bermuda and Gibraltar. When this Act was passed, there were between 4,000 and 5,000 prisoners confined in different jails throughout the country, under sentence of transportation for short periods, and the question arose how were these criminals to be disposed of? It was eventually decided that they should undergo a shorter term of imprisonment, in lieu of the longer one of transportation, and then be discharged with a ticket-of-leave, after the plan adopted in the penal colonies. Before, however, the authorities proposed to let loose this large number of criminals upon society, they determined to adopt stringent measures to make them useful members of it. With this view, it was settled that every prisoner should undergo probationary confinement for a period of nine months, in the Model Prison, Pentonville, where the separate system is carried out to the fullest extent; and where the prisoners, when brought into contact with each other are required to wear masks, so that no after recognition can possibly take place. Here every prisoner is taught a trade, and has an allowance made to him of 4d., 6d., or 8d.

per week, according to the amount of work done by him. From the Model Prison the criminal is removed to the Dockyards of Portsmouth or Woolwich, &c., and is employed on the public works at these places. During this period, if his good behaviour warrants the indulgence, he is permitted to receive letters and visits from his friends or relations once every alternate month. He is also allowed 3d. per week of additional pay. In course of time, the prisoner rises to what is termed the 3d. stage, which promotion brings with it a further increase of 3d. per week to his allowance, and additional comforts in the shape of tea instead of gruel for supper, and half a pint of beer with his dinner on Sunday. When the prisoner reaches the 4th stage, he is allowed a light in his cell an hour later in the evening, and another increase of his allowance of 3d. per week takes place. The prisoner's progress through these various upward steps is indicated by distinctive stripes on his dress.

The money which has been allowed to the prisoner as a reward for his labour and good conduct does not of course come into his possession until after his discharge. The amount varies from £5 to £20. If it does not exceed £5, it is paid at once in one sum by Post Office order on the town or village to which the prisoner belongs. His travelling expenses are given to him in addition. If the amount exceeds £5 and is under £8, then £4 is paid to him as above, and the balance is sent to him at the expiration of two months. If the amount is over £8, and under £12, the £6 is paid on discharge, and the balance at the end of three months. When the sum ranges from £12 to £20, the prisoner receives £5 on discharge, and the balance in two equal moieties at two and three months. To obtain any of these various amounts beyond the payment made to him at the time of discharge, the prisoner, now become a ticket-of-leave man, is required to furnish a certificate from the clergyman or magistrate of the district in which he resides, or else from some person in whose actual employ he is.

To Colonel Jebb, the Inspector-General of prisons, the thanks of the public and the gratitude of all criminals are due, for the great and humane efforts made by him to effect a thorough reform in prison discipline. At his instigation the ticket-of-leave system was originated. That it has answered in spite of loose magisterial statements to the contrary, will be gathered from this fact, namely, that while there are 35 per cent. of ordinary criminals subjected to re-commitments for fresh crimes, the proportion of ticket-of-leave men re-committed, does not, in spite of all the outcry on the subject, exceed 10 per cent.

The engraving on the previous page is from Mr. Henry Mayhew's new work, the "Great World of London," of which a review will be found on another page.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WHAT have we done since I addressed you last week? We have inspected the ruins of Covent Garden, royally and fashionably; we have continued perfectly quiet at the Conferences—not even the most inventive of newspaper correspondents having been able to send over a pun; we have virtually abolished church-rates (at all events a strong blow has been given to the question); we have been promised a commission to inquire into the system of purchase in the army; and we have again seen the word ("Cheers") in appropriate parenthesis, introduced into the report of Lord John Russell's speech in Parliament, not, however, on a political subject, but on his pet question of education.

The Covent Garden fire has not yet ceased to be a subject of discussion, and even during the first days of this week crowds continued to besiege the wooden barriers erected in the neighbourhood, seeking for permission to visit the ruins. This permission has been very clearly granted, for the walls are in anything but a safe state. They are now supported by strong "shores," but will, I imagine, be speedily pulled down altogether. The article in the *Examiner* of last Saturday, which was quoted in Monday's *Times*, has been much talked of for its strong exposure of the proceedings and company of the *bal masqué*, though I have not heard its justice called in question. By-the-way, it is a curious, but a certain fact, that on the night but one after the destruction of Covent Garden, a small fire, caused by the spontaneous combustion of a dust-heap, was discovered in Drury Lane Theatre! The columns of the daily papers still continue to teem with the accounts of the pertration of most awful crimes. Palmer, of Regency, has found an imitator in Mr. Dove, a person in independent circumstances, near Leeds, whose wife died under suspicious circumstances. A post mortem examination clearly proved the presence of strychnine. The evidence would seem to be unanswerable; and Mr. Dove has been arrested. A prisoner in Hastings Jail attempts to escape, and murders the old jailer who endeavours to check his flight. Burglaries and garotte robberies (one in the Edgware Road) continue in full vigour; and the report of Col. Wynne, the Government Inspector of Railways, lets us into a few secrets connected with the Eastern Counties line, the most pleasing of which is, that in one particular viaduct, passing over what is called Sir William Beauchamp's navigation, "the timbers could be dug out with a spade, like garden mould."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"THE EVIL GENIUS" AT THE HAYMARKET—PICCO's CONCERT.

MR. BAYLE BERNARD, a gentleman who, for some years, has held good rank as a dramatic writer, has produced a piece at the Haymarket, which, though well set together, and abounding in good dialogue, will not, I conceive, for long hold possession of the stage. This is owing to the want of dramatic interest, for the story is too natural, too easy-going, too middle-class-like to enchain the attention of the audience. The plot is as follows: Mr. Hill Cooley (Mr. Chippendale), a man of humble birth, has made his fortune in India, and has returned to Derbyshire with his ward, Clara Fielding (Miss Swanborough). His wealth has grounded around him many acquaintances—a silly, used-up London rake, Mr. Walsley (Mr. H. F. Facer); a flirting young widow, Lady Maria Kingswood (Miss Reynolds); a poor and proud widow, with a strong desire to marry Cooley's fortune, Mrs. Montgomery (Mrs. Poynter); a lawyer, Mr. Docket (Mr. Rogers); and a young surgeon, orphan, &c., Mr. Burton (Mr. Villiers), who falls in love with Clara. So far so good. Mr. Cooley is a proud man, and is hugging himself for his position, and on the prospect of a *fête champêtre* to be given in his park, when he is startled by the appearance of an old friend, Tom Ripstone (Mr. Buckstone) who is not particularly aristocratic, though thoroughly good. This intrusion is very unwelcome to the *parem*, more especially as he is aware of a clandestine marriage contracted by Cooley in his youth, and resulting in the birth of a son, who has been abandoned by his father. Tom, however, makes himself a favourite with every one; sees that Clara does not love Walsley, for whom her father intends her; so throws the "swell" into the society of Lady Aurora, a lady of about his calibre, and with whom he speedily falls in love; gains old Mrs. Montgomery to his side by preventing her losing her wig; carpenters and gardeners for Clara; and at last wins the heart of Cooley himself (who has all along considered him his "Evil Genius"), by disclosing to him that Burton is the son whom he had abandoned, and that has been brought up by the generous Ripstone himself. The acting was good. Miss Reynolds, though slightly stagey, was beautifully dressed, lady-like, and vivacious; Miss Swanborough had nothing to do, but she did it prettily; Mrs. Poynter was the stiffest of unpleasant old ladies; and as for Mr. Buckstone, he evidently saw that the piece wanted "pulling up," and he went in with all his heart to accomplish it. I have not mentioned Mr. Compton, who played an old postman with a capricious and defective memory, an unimportant part which most other men would have slurred over, but which in Mr. Compton's hands was the gem of the piece.

Signor Picco's performance at the Hanover Square Rooms on Saturday, fully justified the encomiastic opinion of the Continental press. The softness, sweetness, and precision of his execution on his humble pipe is really marvellous.

THE MISSING STEAM-SHIP.—The Canada, which arrived at Liverpool on the 11th inst., brought no intelligence of the Pacific. The steamers sent out to search for and succour her, if found, have returned without any tidings of her. They report having met with large quantities of floating ice. The worst fears have, therefore, been freely expressed in America, as to the fate of the still missing vessel. The Pacific left Liverpool on the 23d of January, and was seen on the following day off Waterford, on the Irish coast, since which time nothing has been heard of her.

ADJOURNED INQUEST ON THE LATE MR. SADLER.

THE adjourned inquest on the body of the late Mr. Sadler was resumed on Tuesday.

Mr. Manning, the solicitor to the family, said he had no more witnesses to examine, but he had some documents to lay before the jury.

With regard to the money said to have been paid to the deceased on Saturday previous to his death, he had found the deceased had been paid £1,354 in Bank of England notes, but neither of the notes had been paid in to the bank. Again, the deceased was paid the above amount in £1,000, £200, £50, £20, £10 Bank of England notes, and the remainder in cash. He (Mr. Manning) had received a letter from Messrs. Field, solicitors to the London and County Joint-Stock Bank, stating that they had examined the deeds deposited by the deceased, as security with that bank, and found them genuine. It was believed that the statement that had been put forth with regard to the deceased's forgeries were exaggerated, if not unfounded.

The Coroner—You are aware that circumstances have come to light in Ireland bearing upon this case.

Mr. Manning said he was, but he apprehended the Court could take no cognizance of the Irish proceedings. With regard to the rights of the Crown in this case, to which reference had already been made, he had caused the matter to be thoroughly investigated, and it had been ascertained that, in the fourth year of the reign of Edward VI., a charter was granted to Sir Thos. Wrothe, the Lord of the Manor of Hampstead, whereby all the rights of the Crown which could accrue in the said manor were transferred to Sir Thomas. These rights included deadlands, and therefore the whole of the goods and chattels of the deceased, of every kind, with the exception of his estates of inheritance, could be claimed by the Lord of the Manor of Hampstead, in the event of the jury returning a verdict of *felony de se*.

Mr. Manning, in reply to the Coroner, further said that he considered it would be a waste of time to produce more evidence. The case must rest on the evidence of the deceased's friends, and the letters he had written to show the state of the deceased's mind. The letters if produced in the Court of Chancery relative to the testamentary disposition of his property, would have been sufficient to prove him of sound mind, but he (Mr. Manning) considered, that when it was recollected the deceased was in the habit of freely using opium, there could be no doubt that when its effects went off he became much dejected, and it had an effect on his mind and spirits, and in that deplorable state it was probable he had destroyed himself.

Mr. Nichols, the surgeon, was recalled, and said he had again examined the stomach of the deceased, and he believed it contained opium.

Mr. Manning again urged the effect which probably the opium had in depressing the deceased's mind, and the distressing circumstances in which he was placed, to show it was not possible the deceased could have been in his right mind. He had no other evidence to offer.

The Coroner then summed up, after which the jury retired to consider their verdict. After an absence of twenty-five minutes, the jury returned into court, and returned a verdict that the deceased died by his own hand whilst he was in a perfectly sane state.

The Coroner—Then that is self-murder.

The Foreman—Yes; we are unanimous in that opinion.

The Coroner—My own conviction is, after the most mature and careful investigation, that you could have come to no other conclusion.

This closed the inquiry.

A MURDER AT HASTINGS.—On Monday morning the jailer of Hastings, an old man, aged 65 years, was murdered by a young man, 18 years of age, named Murdoch. It appears that the murderer was undergoing a term of imprisonment in the jail for pocket-picking. About half-past six on Monday morning, the deceased went into the cell where the prisoner was confined, for the purpose of giving him his breakfast. He was about to leave the cell, when, as he turned round for that purpose, prisoner seized him by the neckerchief, and twisted round and round until he got deceased back into a chair, and rendered senseless. Leaving the deceased in that state, the murderer proceeded to the matron's room, fastened her in, and then made his escape over the wall of the prison. A younger prisoner, who was also undergoing a term of imprisonment, could not succeed in following his companion. Officers were dispatched in every direction, with a view to the capture of the murderer. In the afternoon he was secured in the following somewhat singular manner. Near to the town some boys were playing in a field, when their attention was attracted by seeing a man lying in a ditch. Their suspicions were immediately aroused that he was in all probability the escaped murderer, and they raised an alarm. The man threatened the boys that he would murder them, or, tantamount to that, if they did not desert, but two boys, more resolute than the others, seized and held him till assistance arrived. It turned out to be the murderer, and he was conveyed in custody to the jail. It is said he exhibited some emotion when he was told that the old man was dead. The prisoner Murdoch is represented as a powerful fellow, standing over five feet ten. Since his capture he has exhibited signs of contrition, and cries bitterly at times. The same night he made the following statement, after being duly cautioned by the inspector:—"I did not intend to kill the gentleman. If I had known the man was dead, I should have given myself up at eight o'clock. I have done too much; I am guilty, and I shall die for it. Oh dear! oh dear! The gentleman was a kind man, and as good as a father to me; and I shall die for it. What you said about knowing me in London is right. Will you write a letter to my father, who lives at No. 8, Three Cold Street, Old Ford, Bow, near London." At the inquest held on Tuesday, a verdict of wilful murder was returned against the prisoner Murdoch, and he stands committed under the coroner's warrant. The prisoner was not present during the examination.

THE BURNFIELD MURDER.—SINGULAR DREAM OF THE MOTHER OF THE MURDERED SURGEON.—In the accounts we have previously given in connection with this case, it will be remembered that Mr. Stirling's parents were stated to reside near Dumbarton, on the Clyde. Last week they were in Durham during the assizes held there, and attended the court for the purpose of hearing the trial of the alleged murderers of their son. A provincial paper gives the following statement, on the authority of Mr. Stirling himself:—"On the night of the 1st of November, the day on which the murder was committed, Mr. Stirling had a dream that some parties were about the house intending to break into it. In a short time a man, with dark complexion and dark dress, looked in upon her at the window, presented a gun, and discharged it at her. At this juncture she awoke, in great alarm and trepidation; and since then, the dream—most strongly impressed upon her mind, by the fact of her son's murder, intelligence of which would not reach her until six or seven days later than the dream—has ever been vivid in her recollection. While in Durham, last week, Mrs. Stirling expressed a great desire to see the two men accused of the murder; and, for that purpose, visited the prison on Wednesday. Several men were walking in the yard at the time, including Cain, Rayne, a turnkey, and three or four others. Immediately upon perceiving Rayne, without being told the names of any of the men, she recognized in him the features of the man whom she saw in her dream fire through the window at her, pointed him out, and burst into tears. Mrs. Stirling still expresses her positive conviction with respect to Rayne."

DEADLY MURDER IN PARIS.—About two o'clock p.m. on Sunday last, a man, apparently 37 or 38 years of age, looking violently agitated, and whose hands and clothes were covered with blood, was seen to rush out of a house, No. 1, Rue des Prêtres, St. Germain l'Auxerrois, exclaiming, "I have just killed the man!" So saying, he hastened to the Commissary of Police for the district of the Louvre, M. Desgranges, at a very short distance, and announced to the magistrate that he had come to give himself up to justice. He proceeded to state that, having entertained suspicions of his wife's fidelity, he had watched her to the house of her paramour, of whose proceedings he had been informed, where he arrived only a few minutes after she had come in with him; and, finding them tête-à-tête together, he could no longer control himself, and that he had inflicted on his rival a wound with a knife with which he had armed himself, and the latter had fallen dead at his feet. His wife, fearing she might share the same fate, had fled during the struggle, which lasted only a few moments. On examination, the statements were found to be correct, and the lifeless body of a man of about 37 years of age was discovered with a fearful gash in his throat. The wound was sufficient to cause instant death; but it was evident the victim had been able to ward off some cuts with his hands, which bore the marks of other wounds inflicted by the same instrument—a butcher's knife.

SENTENCE OF DEATH FOR WIFE MURDER.—At the Sligo assizes, on Friday week, a man named John Speed was convicted of the murder of his wife, and sentenced to be executed on the 14th of April. The prisoner is a very young man, and it is understood that he was influenced by jealousy in committing the crime.

CAPTURE OF A RIBAND GANG.—A letter from Roscommon announces the capture, on the 7th instant, of a band of fifteen Ribandmen. They formed part of a gang who for some time past have been traversing the county, attacking houses, and demanding arms. Their arrest has caused great consternation among their associates yet at large, many of whom have fled the neighbourhood of their exploits.

TYPHUS FEVER IN ODESSA.—The Oesterreichische Correspondenz, of Tuesday, states, that the typhus is committing fearful ravages at Odessa. There is said mortality among the physicians. The longing for peace is general.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

PRISONER IN AN OMNIBUS.—Harriet Schenck, a middle-aged woman of respectable appearance, was charged at Bow Street on Saturday, by Mrs. Fenwick, of Norfolk Street, Strand, with stealing her watch, value £10, from her pocket, while riding beside her in an omnibus.

Mrs. Fenwick stated, that on the 1st inst. she entered an omnibus at Piccadilly, for the purpose of riding to Norfolk Street, where she resides. The prisoner entered in Piccadilly, near the Burlington Arcade, and sat next her on the left hand of the driver. When the omnibus arrived at the Strand, she had occasion to look at her watch, which could not otherwise have been observed by the other passengers, as she had it in a pocket of her gown, and the passengers, who passed round her neck, was completely hidden by her cloak. A moment after she had referred to her watch, she felt a sharp pull at the chain, and at the same time perceived a sudden movement on the part of the prisoner. She then missed her watch, and at once accused the prisoner of stealing it. The prisoner denied the charge, and insisted her right hand had been taken by the conductor to hold the omnibus. The prisoner persisted in the charge, and, insisting hold of prisoner's hands, called to the conductor to stop the omnibus. The prisoner suggested that the conductor had better make quite sure that the watch was not in her pocket; and on Mrs. Fenwick releasing her hands for that purpose, prisoner pointed out the watch, which was now lying at her feet, picked it up, and handed it to the prisoner. It had been broken off at the handle, the ring of which continued attached to the chain. The chief usher observed that it watch hands were made to turn like a wheel, they could not be broken off. The prisoner, who was recognised as an old offender, having been repeatedly convicted, once for a precisely similar offence, for which she was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, the Magistrate committed her for trial.

FEARFUL CASE OF STABBING.—Mary Ann Prior, aged 21, was charged at Bow Street, on Monday, with cutting and wounding Hannah Kendall, intending to do bodily harm.

It appeared that the assault was committed on the 24th of February, since which period the injured woman has been in the infirmary of Shoreditch Workhouse, unable to be removed till Monday, when she was brought in a cab.

Hannah Kendall said—I am a married woman, and live in the Kingsland Road. The accused is my sister. On the evening of the 24th of February, we were together at a tradesman's shop, and she committed a theft, which I compelled her to restore. On reaching the street she struck me several times, and I believe that I then returned the blows, but not afterwards. I solemnly swear. About 7 o'clock on the same evening, while I was at home, she came in a little the worse for liquor, and with drunken language, said—"Pill do for you this night." She again hit me repeatedly, and finding that I did not return the blow, she went to a box and took from it a shaver's knife. She held it up, and said—"You shall have this to-night." I observed that I would not give her the opportunity, and was going down stairs, when I heard steps behind me. I looked up, and saw her with her right arm uplifted, and she struck at me. The knife entered my right chest. I fell and called for help. Then she struck the knife into my breast, saying, "That is what I intended to do." I crawled to the door. The neighbours took me to a surgeon, who dressed my wounds. My sister returned to the room, and I went to the station-house.

A policeman said the last witness was brought to Robert Street station in a dreadful state. The wounds had been attended to, but were redressed by the divisional doctor. She was afterwards taken to the workhouse infirmary. I then went to her house after the prisoner, who escaped by jumping from the window. Subsequently, I took her to a public-house in Shoreditch. I told her she had nearly murdered her sister, and she replied, "That has to be proved, but what she has got she richly deserved." She was quite sober. The knife I produce (an extremely sharp one, used by shoemakers) was brought, with blood-stains on it, to the station.

A certificate was put in, stating that the injured woman had been in great jeopardy from inflammation of the lung membrane and general condition of the wounds, and the prisoner, who declared merely that she could not tell how it was done, was ordered by the Magistrate to be fully committed for trial.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

CONSIDERING that another payment of 25 per cent. has fallen due upon the new loan of £5,000,000, that 20 per cent. has been provided for the funding of exchequer bills, and that we have had some heavy shipments of bullion, partly on account of the Bank of France, the consol market has been steady this week, and prices generally have been well supported. It must be satisfactory to learn that there is every prospect of peace being shortly established. This feature, together with the fact that we are, at length, retaining a portion of our gold imports, both from Australia and the United States, has given more confidence to the bulls, whose operations, however, owing to the high value of money, have not been so extensive. As the next issue of exchequer bills will be paid at the same rate of interest as the old securities, viz., 2½ per cent. per annum, the unfunded debt have realised 91½ for money, and 91½. The quotation for April has been 92½. The new scrip has been done at 11½; and the exchequer bill scrip, 11½ to 12½ prem.; exchequer bills, 1s. prem.; ditto advertised, 2s. dis.; exchequer bonds, 98½ to 99½; India bonds, 6s. discount. The other securities are now shut for the dividends.

Rather more business has been transacted in the foreign house, as follows:—Turkish 6 per cents, 93; ditto 1 per cents, 100½; Cuba 7 per cents, 101; Ecuador, 5; Granada new active, 21½; Mexican 3 per cents, 20½; Sardinian 5 per cents, 90½; Spanish 3 per cents, 42; new deferred, 21½; Venezuela, 29; ditto deferred, 13; Dutch 2½ per cents, 61½; Dutch 4 per cents, 95½.

The bankers in Lombard Street are still giving 5 per cent. for money. Good bills, short dated, cannot be now done under 6 per cent.; and long-dated bills have realised 7 to 8 per cent. per annum.

Most railway shares have been in but moderate request. Prices, however, have ruled very firm. Aberdeen have marked 23; Eastern Counties, 91; Great Northern, 92½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104½; Great Western, 61½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 82½; London and Blackwall, 72; London and North Western, 92½; London and South Western, 92½; Midland, 70; Norfolk, 52½; North Staffordshire, 11; South Devon, 123; South Eastern, 66½; South Wales, 72; Stockton and Darlington, 35.

Mining shares have been tolerably steady. St. John del Rey, 27; Coburn Copper, 68; Santiago de Cuba, 3.

Most joint-stock bank shares have realised very full prices. Australasia have been 97; Bank of London, 60½; London and County, 35; London and Westminster, 44½; Union of Australia, 73½; Union of London, 27.

Miscellaneous securities have marked the following quotations:—Canada Company's bonds, 140; ditto Government 6 per cents, 109; Crystal Palace, 24; Electric Telegraph, 20½; General Steam Shipping Company, 16½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 64½; Royal Mail Steam, 78½; Van Dieman's Land, 15.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Very moderate supplies of English wheat have been received up to our market, this week, consisting of 100,000 bushels, and almost wholly in poor condition. All kinds have changed hands steadily, at an improvement in the quotations of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Foreign wheat—the imports of which have rather increased—has been in improved request, and the quotations have had an upward tendency. Fine barley has sold readily, at 1s. per quarter more money; and the value of other kinds has been well supported. The malt trade has ruled very inactive, at the late fall in value. Oats have met a dull inquiry, and, in some instances, 6d. per quarter less money has been accepted. Beans, peas, and flour have sold steadily, at very full prices.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 55s. to 75s.; do. Red, 51s. to 71s.; Mowing Barley, 25s. to 41s.; Distilling do., 32s. to 35s.; Gmelin do., 31s. to 36s.; Malt, 65s. to 74s.; Bye, 41s. to 47s.; Fooding, 21s. to 27s.; Potatoes, 21s. to 25s.; Turnip, 11s. to 14s.; Peas, 37s. to 44s.; White Peas, 48s. to 49s.; Beans, 32s. to 35s.; Green, 22s. to 25s.; per quarter. Town and Country Flour, 61s. to 67s.; Town House Flour, 51s. to 54s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 46s. to 48s.; per 28 lbs.

CATTLE.—The supplies of beasts have been very moderate, and all kinds have changed hands steadily, at an improvement in the quotations of 2d. per 8 lbs. There has been more 4 but in sheep, at an advance of 2d. per 8 lbs. Calves have sold on rather higher terms, and prime lambs have realised 7s. 6d. In pigs, very little doing, at late rates. Beef, 10s. 2d. to 11s. 8d.; Mutton, 5s. 2d. to 5s.; Veal, 4s. 2d. to 5s. 8d.; Pork, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d. per 8 lbs. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—There has been an improved feeling in the trade generally, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d.; mutton, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 4d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 4s.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d. per 8 lbs. by the carcass.

TEA.—For all kinds the demand is heavy, and late rates are largely supported. Congou, 2½d. to 2s. 6d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 1d. to 1s. 9d.; Souchong, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flowery Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Caper, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 8d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

SUGAR.—Since our last report, nearly all kinds of raw sugar have been in fair request, at fully the late improvement in the quotations. The stock of colonial sugar is now 56,005 tons, and of foreign 19,000 tons, being about 6,200 tons in excess of last year. Refined goods are steady. Tenders have sold at 50s. to 54s.; crushed, in bond, 32s. 6d. to 35s. per cwt. Molasses: Trinidad has sold at 17s., and Cuba Muscovado 18s., per cwt. The demand is very inactive.

COFFEE.—We have no improvement to notice in the demand for any kind of coffee. Prices rule much the same as last week.

COCOA.—The demand is almost wholly confined to small parcels, on rather easier terms. Rio Trinidad, 45s. to 50s.; grey, 41s. 6d. to 45s.; Granada, 40s. to 47s.; St. Vincent, 38s. to 41s.; and Bahia, 35s. to 41s. per cwt.

FRUIT.—We have a good inquiry for currants, at full prices. Other fruits are dull. Turkey figs command previous rates. Jordan almonds, 120s. to 180s. per cwt.

RICE.—There is rather more doing in East India qualities, at very full prices.

SALT.—The demand for most kinds is steady, at full quotations. 31s. per cwt. having been paid for 6½ cwt. The stock is 4,713 tons, against 11,013 tons in 1855, and 3,433 tons in 1854.

NITRATE OF SODA.—This article is selling at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per cwt.

HEMP AND FLAX.—We have a very quiet market for all kinds of hemp, and prices are almost nominal. Flax is very dull, but not cheaper.

SILK.—This market is firm, and Chinese qualities are 1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb. dearer than last month. Bengals are 1s. higher. Good and fine qualities are very scarce.

WOOL.—Since the close of the public sales, our market has been very firm.

COTTON.—All kinds continue in good request, at fully last week's quotations. Surin has realised 12d. to 1½d.; Bengal, 12½d. to 1½d.; and Madras, 1½d. to 1½d. per lb. The supply here is very limited.

PROVISIONS.—Fine butters are scarce, and selling at very high rates. In low qualities, only a limited business is doing. The bacon market is firm, and the quotations have an upward tendency.

METALS.—The iron trade is rather inactive, at about last week's quotations. Rails at the works, 48 to 48 2s. 6d.; common bars, 48 2s. 6d. to 48 5s.; Staffordshire, 410 10s.; Sheets, single, in London, 411 10s. to 412; and mill rods, 410 to 410 5s. per ton. Tin moves off slowly. Banca, 129s. to 130s.; Straits, 128s. to 128s. 6d.; British, 128s. to 129s.; refined, 134s. to 135s. Tin plate is a less active. C. C. 20s. to 30s. 6d.; L. X. do., 36s. to 38s. 6d. per box. Lead is brisk. British pig, 23 10s. to 23 7s.; Spanish, 23s. to 23 10s. per ton. Spelter, on the spot, 23 7s. to 23 10s. per ton.

LEATHER.—There is about an average business doing in this article, at full prices.

SPIRITS.—Rum is dull in sale. Proof leewards, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d.; East India, 1s. 10d. to 2s.; and 4 foreign, proof to 10 per cent. over, 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. per gallon. We continue to have a slow inquiry for brandy, at barely stationary prices. Sales of Cognac, best brands, of 1851, 10s. 4d. to 10s. 6d.; 1850, ditto, 10s. 5d. to 10s. 7d.; older, 10s. 10d. to 11s. 6d.; and low to middling, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 2d. per gallon. Gin, 17 under proof, 9s. 10d.; 22 ditto, 9s. 4d.; raw spirit, 10s. 5d.; Geneva, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 8d.

OILS.—Lined oil is in moderate request, and sales have been made at 34s. 6d. per cwt. We have a fair inquiry for rape. Pale, at 55s. to 58s.; brown, 49s. to 49s. 6d. Coconut moves off steadily. Cocoa is quoted at 39s. to 39s. 6d.; Ceylon, 38s. to 38s. 6d. per cwt. Palm is dull, at 37s. to 40s. Turpentine is quiet. American spirits, 34s.; English, 31s. 6d. to 32s.; rough, 9s. to 9s. 6d. per cwt.

TALLOW.—P. Y. C., on the spot, 57s. 6d. per cwt. For the last three months, we have sellers at 51s. Town tallow, 51s. net cash; rough fat, 2s. 10d. The stock of tallow is now 23,123 casks, against 30,079 casks in 1855; 36,369 in 1854; 36,769, in 1853; and 46,819, in 1852.

COALS.—Best Wallend, 17s. to 17s. 6d.; other sorts, 11s. to 16s. 6d. per ton. The supplies continue large, and the trade is heavy.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7.

BANKRUPT.—THOMAS COOPER, Woolton, Isle of Wight, farmer and brickmaker—BUXTON KERRICK, Frampton, Lincolnshire, shipowner—JAMES BARKER, Brixton, builder—NEWBY ATKINSON, Louth, Lincolnshire, miller—GEORGE BARKER, Henry Street, Kennington Lane, Surrey, contractor—GEORGE PRINCE, Stoke-upon-Trent, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ROBERT COCHRAN, Murraygate, Dundee, druggist—ROBERT MITCHELL, Nether Laver, Aberdeenshire, surgeon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—WILLIAM LEADER, Wells Street, Oxford Street, coach maker.

BANKRUPT.—JOHN SEARLE, March, Isle of Ely, builder—JOHN RICHARDSON, Liverpool, timber merchant—GEORGE HAMILTON, Leadenhall Street, ship broker—JOHN HARVEY, Farningham, Kent, licensed victualler—WILLIAM HUTCHISON and THOMAS FLOCKTON, Leadenhall Street, shipbrokers—JOSEPH HANCOCK EVANS, Aberystwyth, surveyor—PETER LEICESTER, Essex Street, Strand, metal broker—ALEXANDER SIMPSON, Kingston-upon-Hull, warehouseman—WILLIAM DEACON, Boxmoor, Hertfordshire, brewer—SAMUEL LUCAS SANVILLE, Sane Lane, City, merchant and commission agent—ELIZA GORTON, Cleveland Street, Fitzroy Square, music smith—DAVID DEACON, Kilburn, butcher—PATRICK SKEWINGTON DONNELLY, Twickenham, builder—GEORGE DEWING, B. St. Street, Newgate Street, printer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—SIMON LORD and Co., Glasgow, merchants—JAMES GEMMEL, Glasgow, now deceased, writer—LINDSAY WEBSTER, Dundee, silk mercer—JOHN RITCHIE, Glasgow, lately publisher—THOMAS DUNLOP, Musselburgh, saddler.

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